



COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, September 2014

Annual Progress Report September 2017



To request an alternate version, call 703-324-5277, TTY 711. Additional details about the Fairfax 50+ Community Action Plan can be found online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/fairfax-50-plus-community-action-plan. Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults or call 703-324-7948, TTY 711, Monday-Friday, for services for older adults.
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Fairfax 50+ Community Action Plan
Annual Progress Report

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INTRODUCTION

Nationwide, the population of older adults has seen significant growth since the first "baby boomers" turned 65 in 2010. According to the federal Administration for Community Living's [Profile of Older Americans 2016](#), the cohort of people aged 65+, which comprised 14.9% of the total U.S. population in 2015, is expected to rise to 21.7% of the population by 2040, a date by which the 85+ cohort will have more than doubled, from 6.3 million to 14.6 million.

Likewise, Fairfax County's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, using slightly different age ranges, projected in 2013 that, by 2040,

- the County's population of 70- to 79-year-olds will have grown from 42,000 in 2010 to 88,000;
- residents aged 80+, recorded at 26,000 in 2010, will number 62,000; and
- the total cohort of adults aged 50 and up, estimated to reach around 452,000, will comprise 33% of the total County population.

Dramatic growth in the older adult population brings both challenges and benefits for local governments and service providers. Some forecasters focus on the challenges: Older adults have disabilities and health problems. Many live alone, often in houses unsafe for older occupants. Those who can no longer drive may lose their connections to friends and community services. A significant number live on reduced incomes. This population is often a target of criminal activity.

But others who study the numbers, like AARP, urge us to see the flip side of aging. Thanks to improvements in health care and a move to healthier lifestyles, people in their 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s are living longer and better than ever. They travel, they study, they volunteer, they start businesses. They use modern technologies to stay in touch with friends and family near and far. They engage with the arts, both as patrons and participants. They spend money in local restaurants and shops. They vote. With appropriate social and physical supports, they can continue for years to be active in their communities.

The Commission on Aging is particularly proud of the many ways in which the champions and County liaisons of the 50+ Community Action Plan initiatives described in this report have effectively addressed, and continue to address, the needs and interests of older adults in Fairfax County and its partner cities. We praise also the volunteers in initiatives like GrandInvolve and Community Ambassadors and Neighbor to Neighbor, who see giving back to their communities as an important part of later life. We thank all of them and you, the Board of Supervisors, for your ongoing commitment to our older residents. Your recognition and support are key to helping our friends and neighbors "age in place" successfully and productively in the communities they love.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Larmer, *Chair (Dranesville District)*
Carolyn Sutterfield, *Vice Chair (City of Fairfax)*
Fairfax Area Commission on Aging

**Fairfax 50+ Community Action Plan
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QUICK SUMMARY

The Fairfax 50+ Community Action Plan is categorized into 6 major areas:

- 1) **Long-Range Planning** – central component of the planning process
- 2) **Services for Older Adults and Family Caregivers** – promotes awareness of 50+ services
- 3) **Safe & Healthy Community** – promotes safety and wellness
- 4) **Community Engagement** – connects older adults with community-based opportunities
- 5) **Transportation** – promotes accessible transportation and resources
- 6) **Housing** – promotes accessible homes/communities, affordable housing, housing stability

SCORING KEY	
●●●●	Initiative has been achieved or is now an established operation.
●●●○	Initiative has made good progress and accomplished more than half of its initial goals.
●●○○	Initiative has made some progress and is moving forward.
●○○○	Initiative has made little progress, due to limited resources or obstacles.

Champion: Community leader empowered by the Board of Supervisors’ (BOS) endorsement of the 50+ Plan to develop and implement a work plan for the specific Initiative.

COA Advocate: Fairfax Area Commission on Aging (COA) representative who serves as an advocate for the initiative’s Champion and County Liaison.

County Liaison: Fairfax County staff person who provides assistance and linkages to County resources and serves as a County contact for the initiative’s Champion and COA advocate.

**Fairfax 50+ Community Action Plan
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INITIATIVES SNAPSHOT

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

- Trends Analysis of Fairfax County 50+ Residents

SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS AND FAMILY CAREGIVERS

- Caring for the Caregiver
- Creating a Communication Buzz (50+ Community Ambassadors)
- Optimizing the Number of Links into the County's Older Adults Page
- Housing for Older Homeless Adults and Those at Risk of Becoming Homeless
- Home Health Care Cooperative

SAFE & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

- Arts Initiative (Creative Aging Festival)
- Park Authority 50+ Initiatives
- Criminal Exploitation Prevention
- Project Lifesaver Expansion
- Pre-Notification 911
- Building Community Partnerships to Enhance Behavioral Health for Seniors

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Fairfax 50+ Community (Fairfax 50+ Facebook Page)
- GrandInvolve: Intergenerational Volunteering in Elementary School
- Venture into Volunteering
- Increase Employment and Entrepreneurship Opportunities
- Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N)
- Kaleidoscope 50+: Perspectives on Culture
- Library Opportunities for 50+

TRANSPORTATION

- NV Rides
- Senior Mobility Fair
- Universal Real-Time Online Transit Data Portal
- Mobility Management Program
- Partnership to Provide Medical Transportation

HOUSING

- Accessibility Guide for Home Modifications
- Help People Stay in Their Homes with Technology
- Latitude in Land Use Cases for Affordable Older Adult Housing
- Universal Design (UD)
- Home Sharing Initiative
- Neighborhood-Based Older Adult Housing
- Home Property Management Services

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LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Trends Analysis of Fairfax County 50+ Residents	
Progress:	●
Champion:	George Mason University, Dr. Catherine Tompkins & Dr. Emily Ihara
COA Advocate:	N/A
County Liaisons:	Jacque Woodruff, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging (AAA)/Dept. of Family Services, and Evan Braff, Dept. of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)

Goals: Conduct a study of federal, state, and local economic and demographic data related to the 50+ population in Fairfax County. The analysis will identify population trends and resulting needs and will become the foundation for framing future 50+ strategic planning efforts.

Update: Evaluating trends over time can provide invaluable information for program planning, program evaluation, and policy development. In areas with large populations, examining data over long periods of time can typically yield an accurate portrayal of changes over time. In the case of Fairfax County, however, using data from small areas, small populations, and different definitions of those areas and populations has presented a major barrier for completion of a trends analysis of the County’s 50+ population.

The champions of this initiative worked closely with community stakeholders and county officials to identify relevant indicators, subsequently examining specific measures for those indicators. Unfortunately, the majority of indicators would require more extensive data analysis time, which we are unable to provide on a volunteer basis in addition to our current workload.

Our recommendation is that the County allocate funding for data analysis of the multiple indicators in each of the five areas: Services for Older Adults and Family Caregivers, Safe & Healthy Community, Community Engagement, Transportation, and Housing. This essentially amounts to at least five major projects because of the nature of the existing data, the differing ways that data has been collected, and the limitations of the existing data for comparison or for development of composite measures. Future harmonization of data sources should be a long-term goal in order to conduct a true trends analysis “over time.”

SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS AND FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Caring for the Caregiver	
Progress:	●●●●
Champions:	Family Caregiver Support Team; ElderLink
COA Advocate:	Catherine Cole, At-Large
County Liaisons:	Jacque Woodruff, AAA/Dept. of Family Services, and Tara Turner, ElderLink

Goals: As originally approved in 2014, this initiative sought to answer three questions: (1) What are the current needs of caregivers in Fairfax County? (2) What are the perceived gaps in meeting these needs? (3) What are some potential future/longer-term needs of caregivers that the County and nonprofits must be prepared to address?

The initiative was framed with the recognition that County revenue for human services and pressures on individual incomes impact the ability to meet both present and projected caregiver and care recipient needs. But it did not entirely take into account the ways in which existing providers were already assessing and addressing the needs of this population.

Update: Two organizations within the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, specifically the Family Caregiver Support Team and ElderLink, share a mission to identify and respond to the needs of caregivers in Fairfax County. These efforts are ongoing, recognizing the gaps in service and, when possible, addressing them as they are identified.

Specific programs in place include

- Respite program providing much needed relief for caregivers, including a Volunteer Respite program available to all family caregivers;
- A Caregiver Assessment for all Respite clients that helps to determine the need for additional support for caregivers likely experiencing a high level of distress;
- Caregiver consultations;
- Assisted transportation for those Dept. of Family Services (DFS) clients and their family caregivers who are not able to use public transportation safely and who need minimal assistance/accompaniment for the duration of the trip;
- A Caregiver Discretionary Fund that assists client caregivers to obtain goods and services, including assistive devices and respite;
- Family caregiver seminars and webinars;
- A telephone support group;
- *Caregiver Corner Online* newsletter;
- The Kinship Family Institute, a program under the Children, Youth, and Families Division of DFS, offers support groups for grandparents who are the primary caregivers for a minor child, to assist them in making decisions and solving problems related to their caregiving roles; and
- A partnership of the Fenwick Foundation with the Caregiver Support Team to provide supplemental respite and support opportunities for family caregivers, such as outings, meal vouchers, and gift cards.

ElderLink has recently received funding for additional respite hours through a Respite Care Initiative Grant offered by the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). The Caregiver Assessment tool will be used to determine which caregivers will most benefit from (and be offered) the additional hours. ElderLink is also in the process of obtaining the necessary approvals to implement a new evidence-informed program from the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving. Called “Caring for You, Caring for Me,” the program is a 5-week workshop series, with different topics each week, that gives caregivers space to gain information on various topics related to caregiving. Participants learn ways of coping with stress; become familiar with available resources; discover ways to reduce frustrations and barriers encountered in the caregiving experience; and share common concerns and issues.

Creating a Communication Buzz (50+ Community Ambassadors)

Progress:	●●●●
Champion:	N/A
COA Advocate:	Kay Larmer, Chair, Dranesville District
County Liaisons:	Grace Lynch and Linda Hernandez-Giblin, AAA/Dept. of Family Services

Goals: Educate community members about services in Fairfax County available to older adults and their caregivers through the Area Agency on Aging and other County departments. Now known as 50+ Community Ambassadors, this program will train volunteers to become resources in their communities and organizations. Ambassadors will bridge the gap between the community and County resources.

Update: In the past year, the 50+ Community Ambassadors program grew from approximately 20 to 60 members, attracting volunteers from all magisterial districts and the City of Fairfax. The increasing diversity of ambassadors has helped the County extend its reach into more neighborhoods and with more groups. Program participants are beginning to organize events together, and are learning from each other how to share resources in new ways.

Three training sessions held in the past year provided new members with an orientation to AAA services and featured County experts presenting on topics ranging from fraud and Adult Protective Services to Universal Design and transportation options. A session on the County’s new mobility application and a roundtable discussion with the new AAA Director are planned for the September 11, 2017, training session.

Optimizing the Number of Links into the County’s Older Adults Page

Progress:	●●●●
Champion and County Liaison:	Grace Lynch, AAA/Dept. of Family Services
COA Advocate:	Tom Bash, Springfield District

Goals: Post links to the County's Older Adults web page (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults) from other County pages that older adults and caregivers are likely to visit, and vice versa. More links increase visits to the site and assist visitors in finding the services they need. The web page also prioritizes the Aging, Disability, and Caregiver Resource Line, 703-324-7948, TTY 711.

Update: Grace Lynch of DFS reports that this Initiative has been accomplished. County web pages that logically should have links to and from the Older Adults web page, including pages managed by Neighborhood and Community Services, Housing and Community Development, Park Authority, and the Health Department, all now contain links to the Older Adults web page. Of special note this year is a link to the new 50+ web portal created by the Fairfax County Park Authority, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks, which directs FCPA visitors to services for mature adults. (See “Park Authority 50+,” page 11.) In addition, older adults seeking information on transportation from the Fairfax County Dept. of Transportation will now find a link from the FCDOT web page, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation, to the Older Adults and Disabilities Transportation section of the Older Adults web page.

The Older Adults web page is currently managed by communications staff at Adult and Aging Services in the Dept. of Family Services. After the transfer to the new Drupal web platform scheduled for late 2017, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults will be managed by the Office of Public Affairs.

Housing for Older Homeless Adults and Those at Risk	
Progress:	●●●
Champion:	Dean Klein, Office to Prevent and End Homelessness
COA Advocate:	Sharron Dreyer, Lee District
County Liaison:	Barbara Antley, Adult & Aging Services/Dept. of Family Services

Goals: Increase available safe housing for people age 55+, especially those with chronic medical conditions and those who become homeless through abuse, abandonment, and other issues beyond their control.

Update: This is a long-range initiative that requires the right timing and a multi-faceted approach for implementation. The population to be served needs a continuum of housing, from supportive to secure. Using recently approved bond funds, four of the County’s homeless shelters will be renovated or replaced. The four new shelters will include space for more medical respite beds and also permanent single-occupancy apartments. The implementation of the bond funds will take place over the next eight years. In the meantime, the work group will continue to seek new opportunities and meet to review possibilities.

Home Health Care Cooperative	
Progress:	●
Champion:	N/A
COA Advocate:	N/A
County Liaison:	Barbara Antley, Adult & Aging Services/ Dept. of Family Services

Goals: Encourage development of a home health care cooperative that includes caregivers, service recipients, and providers. As Fairfax area residents age and require in-home health care, they have a range of options, but they do not have control over rates charged or the problem of significant turnover among home health aides and home care aides. A cooperative may be a way to mitigate the impact of these conditions.

Update: Due to the departure of the original champion and COA advocate, this initiative is inactive at this time. However, a new strategy being explored by the Office of Public and Private Partnerships (OP3) in conjunction with County and community leaders and local anchor institutions is considering ways to develop employee-owned cooperatives for high-demand, low-wage positions, including personal care assistants and home health aides--an idea closely related to the goals of this initiative. (See “Increase Employment,” page 16.)

SAFE & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Arts Initiative	
Progress:	●●●●
Champion:	Lisa Mariam, Arts Council of Fairfax County, and Julie Ellis, Evan Braff, and Elisa Lueck, Dept. of Neighborhood and Community Services
COA Advocate:	Mike Perel, Braddock District
County Liaisons:	Jacque Woodruff and Linda Hernandez-Giblin, AAA/Dept. of Family Services

Goals: Encourage older adults to participate in the arts through community partners such as the Arts Council of Fairfax County. Research demonstrates that older adults' participation in arts programs can positively impact general health, mental health, social bonds, overall functioning, and quality of life.

Update: Since 2015, the Arts Council of Fairfax County has worked with Fairfax County staff (Dept. of Neighborhood and Community Services and AAA/Dept. of Family Services) and multiple County and private partners to organize an arts component as part of the national observance of Older Americans Month in May.

In May 2017, the Third Annual Creative Aging Festival featured more than 65 events countywide. During the month, the AAA worked with George Mason University graduate students and the Arts Council of Fairfax County to complete a pilot evaluation of several festival sessions. This effort represents the first data available to assess and improve (and possibly pursue funding for) the annual arts festival. Results presented by the GMU students to the Creative Aging Committee included the following:

- More than 58% of respondents surveyed were over the age of 70.
- Almost 85% of respondents said they were likely to invite others to attend the festival.
- 81% of respondents rated the overall experience as "excellent."

Respondents expressed particular interest in arts programming that is interactive and involves movement. A group of instructors said the Creative Aging Festival had allowed them to acknowledge their own myths about aging and helped them to develop as teaching artists, particularly with the diverse aging population.

Another result of the Arts Initiative has been a more concerted effort to offer year-round opportunities in the creative arts at Fairfax County senior centers. A vendor fair held in January 2017 introduced senior center directors to artists and arts organizations offering creative arts programs. The champions will continue to explore opportunities to expand creative arts exploration year-round and provide training for artists interested in working with older adults.

Park Authority 50+ Initiatives	
Progress:	●●●●
Champion:	Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director, Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)
COA Advocate:	Mike Perel, Braddock District
County Liaison:	Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director, FCPA

Goals: The Fairfax County Park Authority will use its recent Needs Assessment to better target programs and facilities for older adults. A new 50+ portal on the FCPA website is planned. Staff will include a focus on the needs of older adults when designing and planning new urban park settings.

Update: The FCPA staff has achieved the goals of this initiative. Its 50+ Portal (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) went live on September 15, 2016. From that date through June 30, 2017, the portal was viewed 3,726 times. Annual enrollment in 50+ FCPA programs increased from 15,324 in FY 2016 to 16,279 in FY2017, with 12,847 of those registrations occurring after implementation of the 50+ Portal. A survey of participants in 50+ programs found that 92% of 50+ respondents agreed with the statement “I was very satisfied with this class.” In addition, the number of RECenter passes sold to individuals 50 and up increased by more than 500 passes over the FY2016 numbers.

During FY2017, seven County-approved zonings in redevelopment areas included commitments to urban parks. These urban parks, which are privately owned but accessible to the public, include elements that attract active adults and retirees, such as outdoor fitness stations, public art and seating areas, plazas, enhanced trails, and space for outdoor entertainment.

FCPA staff is on track to initiate follow-on analysis of 50+ needs and usage, using data from the Needs Assessment and from Health & Human Services, to examine if and how 50+ adults are accessing parks. As a follow-on to the Needs Assessment, the Park Authority has been preparing a Parks and Recreation System Master Plan that will guide the agency to meet growing and changing community needs. The master plan emphasizes the importance of park access for all residents and includes a goal to “improve access and opportunities for healthy and active lifestyles.” The Park Authority will keep in mind the needs of the 50+ population as it develops a new strategic plan for Fiscal Years 2019–2024.

Criminal Exploitation Prevention	
Progress:	●●●●
Champion:	N/A
COA Advocate:	Joseph Heastie, Providence District
County Liaisons:	Barbara Antley, Adult and Aging Services/DFS; Mary Ann Jennings, Fairfax County Police Dept.; V.F. Johnson, Dept. of Cable and Consumer Affairs

Goals: Address exploitation crimes against older adults with education campaigns and aggressive police enforcement.

Update: The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and multiple departments have been involved in efforts to address exploitation crimes against older adults. This initiative is now operational and self-sustaining, under the direction of staff in various County departments.

The *Golden Gazette* (circulation 28,000) publishes scam updates each month. The Police Department and Department of Family Services have created a task force regarding case cooperation and sharing of information. Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross and other Fairfax County leaders have initiated the Silver Shield Campaign, designed to educate older adult communities, families of older adults, community residents, caregivers, and others on

issues related to safety and local protective services. Silver Shield launched on September 13 with a media conference and training activities on Scammer Awareness at the Lincolnia Senior Center. For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov and do a search for “Silver Shield.”

Project Lifesaver Expansion	
Progress:	●●●●
Champion:	N/A
COA Advocate:	Joseph Heastie, Providence District
County Liaison:	Stacie Talbot, 2 nd Lieutenant, Sheriff’s Office

Goals: Increase Project Lifesaver funding and support, particularly to decrease the waiting list for services. Project Lifesaver is a comprehensive program designed to quickly locate and rescue individuals with cognitive disorders who are at constant risk for wandering. The Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office manages and runs the program, providing timely response and recovery of these persons, both children and adults.

Update: Second Lieutenant Stacie Talbot, the initial champion of the initiative, is now the County liaison. The original goal was successfully completed, and the program is ongoing. Public demand is strong, and the program will continue to grow and serve more citizens as equipment and personnel become available. Information about Project Lifesaver and applications are available on the Sheriff Department’s web pages.

Pre-Notification 911	
Progress:	●●
Champion and COA Advocate:	Tom Bash, COA, Springfield District
County Liaison:	Bill Kang, Department of Public Safety Communications

Goal: Investigate the adoption of Pre-Notification 911 as a significant safety enhancement to Fairfax County’s emergency response system for residents of all ages with chronic medical conditions, physical disabilities, or limitations.

This proposal was modeled on a national database, Smart911, which provides call takers and first responders with critical care and rescue information that may be useful during an emergency. Details provided voluntarily by residents are entered on Smart911’s website in the form of a Safety Profile that is automatically displayed to the dispatcher if the resident calls in. There is no cost to the user. Smart911 now serves 41 states and more than 1,500 communities, including Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Seattle, Nashville, Charleston, Honolulu, the Long Island suburbs of New York City, Alexandria, Va., and Washington, D.C.

Update: Funding for Pre-Notification 911 was not approved in the FY2017 or FY2018 budgets. However, the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging (COA), the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC), and the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (FA-DSB) continue to advocate for funding this proposal within the Public Safety budget. We believe it would bring greater safety and peace of mind to older adults and people with disabilities who call in to 911. It will require expenditure of public funds in the amount of approximately \$300,000.

Building Community Partnerships to Enhance Behavioral Health for Seniors

Progress:	●
Champion:	N/A
COA Advocate:	Joseph Heastie, Providence District
County Liaison:	Trina Mayhan-Webb, AAA/Dept. of Family Services

Goals: Convene a work group of representatives from the Community Services Board, Department of Family Services’ Adult & Aging Services, the Health Department, community nonprofits, and interested community members to explore the feasibility of implementing a Senior Reach program in Fairfax County. Senior Reach, based in Jefferson County, Colorado, provides care management, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and wellness services at no cost to older adults who are isolated, frail, or in need of support.

Update: Initiative has been inactive since the former champion moved out of the area in 2015. The AAA agreed to assume management, but did not have access to the modest funding needed to begin a model project in the County. The original proposal for this initiative called it “affordable if done in partnership with a nonprofit and a grant award for start-up”—a model that proved successful for the NV Rides program. The framers of the initiative went on to note that Medicare, Medicaid, and insurance fees could help maintain such a program once it is fully activated, with donations or new grants sought to provide services to uninsured clients. The lack of both funding and a strong champion have sidelined this initiative. But if the CSB, the Health Department, and the AAA could find a way to join forces with a willing nonprofit to launch a model in Fairfax County, we believe such a program could make a significant difference in the lives of vulnerable older adults.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Fairfax 50+ Community (Fairfax 50+ Facebook)

Progress:	●●●●
Champion:	Adult and Aging Services/Dept. of Family Services
COA Advocate:	Tom Bash, Springfield District
County Liaison:	Grace Lynch, Adult and Aging Services/Dept. of Family Services

Goal: Support the continued development of the Fairfax 50+ Community, an online social media communications hub that integrates County and non-County service information and offers free interactive web space to individuals and 50+ groups.

Update: This is an example of an initiative that did not work out as originally envisioned (there were too many competing platforms), but made a successful transition to a new format, one already familiar to many members of the 50+ audience. The first Fairfax 50+ Facebook page was posted in September 2016. The editorial mix includes news of countywide services and recreation and engagement opportunities, as well as prevention and safety messages. Content is customized for a mature audience. (This is the same editorial mix as used in the *Golden Gazette* and *Fairfax 50+ E-news*, and on www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults.)

The page also promotes services and events of nonprofit partners, such as Olli-GMU, NV Rides, the Shepherd’s Centers, Rebuilding Together, and GrandInvolve. In addition, the page

promotes Channel 16 *Mature Living* videos and *Fairfax 50+ Podcasts*. Since its inception, it has hosted three Facebook Live events. Fairfax 50+ Facebook currently has 395 Likes and 406 Follows. It registered a 7,613 reach in the month of May 2017.

GrandInvolve: Intergenerational Volunteering in Elementary Schools

Progress:	●●●●
Champion:	Dorothy Keenan, Positive Aging Coalition
COA Advocate:	Kay Larmer, Chair, Dranesville District
County Liaison:	Evan Braff, Dept. of Neighborhood and Community Services

Goal: Recruit older adult volunteers to work in Fairfax County Public Schools that have low achievement levels and high poverty and minority enrollment.

Update: As of June 2017, the current GrandInvolve program had 106 volunteers in six Fairfax County Title 1 elementary schools: Crestwood, Parklawn, Mt. Vernon Woods, Brookfield, Herndon, and Lorton Station. In April, Governor McAuliffe honored the program in Richmond with the 2017 Governor’s Community Volunteer Award; GrandInvolve also received a letter of commendation from Senator Warner. Other achievements in the past year include

- Publication of a generic manual for all schools that includes guidelines, opportunities for volunteers, job descriptions, and more.
- Development of a spreadsheet for collecting volunteer hours other than those collected by the school and maps with overlays identifying regions, districts, and Title 1 schools.
- A newsletter, blog, Instagram account, and website (www.GrandInvolve.org).
- Presentations to Rotary Clubs, initially focusing on the Mt. Vernon area, to educate the community, seek more volunteers, and solicit money for special needs like printing expenses. The champion was featured in a live TV Spot on Channel 10 in March and wrote an article that was printed in a nationwide journal. There have been several reports by local newscasters featuring volunteers working with children at two of the schools, and school staff and volunteers participated in a one-hour, live TV spot on Channel 10 in July 2017.
- A pro bono partnership with a business advisor who is developing the documents necessary (and donating the fees involved) for GrandInvolve to become a nonprofit organization.

Encouraged by the initial success of the program, organizers have proposed a long-range plan to introduce GrandInvolve in all FCPS Title 1 public schools. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed with FCPS Partnerships. The plan calls for expansion to 9 new schools in the Mt. Vernon/Lee Districts (Saratoga, Woodlawn, Washington Mill, Woodley Hills, Riverside, Hollin Meadows, Bucknell, Hybla Valley, and Lynbrook) in current year 2017-18. Title 1 schools in the rest of Lee District and Mason District will be covered by 2021. (The majority of FCPS Title 1 schools are found in these three districts.)

Expansion to the rest of the County is planned for completion by 2024. However, any FCPS Title 1 school that provides a GrandInvolve liaison and has an MOU signed by its principal, will take precedence for GrandInvolve expansion, regardless of the above timeline. GrandInvolve will work closely with the Director of Title 1 Schools, out of the Office of Partnerships, to administer guidelines for the GrandInvolve program at each school.

Articles of incorporation for GrandInvolve have been drafted, with a target date of September 30 for filing for status as a 501(c)(3) organization. GrandInvolve will have both a Board of Managers, working staff with job descriptions, and a Board of Directors, community leaders who will help in raising funds and identifying resources. In September 2017, a volunteer student from Virginia Commonwealth University is expected to begin working on a fundraising plan and assisting with grant applications, and the champion will give a presentation of the long-range plan to the Board of Supervisors.

Venture into Volunteering	
Progress:	●●●●
Champions:	Nadia Hoonan, Volunteer Fairfax
COA Advocate:	N/A
County Liaison:	Jeanine Purdy, Volunteer Solutions, AAA/Dept. of Family Services

Goals: Expand "Venture into Volunteering," a marketing effort to recruit volunteers age 50+. This successful program sponsors recruitment fairs that offer volunteer opportunities with County and nonprofit agencies. The planning committee consists of Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions, AARP Northern Virginia, Fairfax County Park Authority, RSVP Northern Virginia, and the Positive Aging Coalition. Specific goals are to grow partnership involvement, to create leadership opportunities for volunteers, and to plan more frequent Venture events.

Update: The 13th Venture into Volunteering Fair was held at the Franconia Moose Lodge on Friday, June 2, 2017. The annual event continues to attract boomers, retirees, and older adults with volunteer opportunities. The fair has expanded to include recruitment of skilled volunteers and also offers many one-time volunteer opportunities. More than 1,000 volunteers have been connected with local nonprofits and government agencies over the course of these events.

In addition to the annual fair, Venture finds benefit in partnering with other community-based events to expand its scope of recruitment. One example was a partnership with the Living Well, Aging Well Summit in 2016, which was attended by more than 800 individuals.

Increase Employment and Entrepreneurship Opportunities	
Progress:	●●●
Champion:	Office of Public and Private Partnerships (OP3)
COA Advocate:	Kay Larmer, Chair, Dranesville District
County Liaisons:	Patricia Stevens, OP3, and Evan Braff, Dept. of Neighborhood & Community Services

Goals: Creation of a webpage for residents to find employment and entrepreneur resources; promotion of resources to Chambers of Commerce; partnership with Small Business Development Centers; identification of existing funding sources for entrepreneurs 50+; promotion of the value of older workers; and sponsorship of a 50+ Employment and Entrepreneurs Expo.

Update: Following a May 11, 2017, event organized by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia to explore "Community Wealth Building: A New Inclusive Systems Approach to Economic Development," especially in under-served communities, OP3 convened a group of County and community leaders and local anchor institutions to explore opportunities for Fairfax

County. One of the strategies that emerged for consideration is to develop employee-owned cooperatives for high-demand, low-wage positions, including personal care assistants and home health aides. This proposal, which is currently being researched, closely aligns with a suspended initiative in the original 50+ Community Action Plan. (See “Home Health Care Cooperative,” page 10.)

The County has also initiated the Innovation Challenge program, a series of events focused on socially innovative solutions (i.e., outside of traditional models) to address community challenges. The kickoff conference, Human Services Innovation Challenge, was held on May 18, 2017, at ICF International. The event was sponsored by the Human Services Council, in association with County agencies, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, and others.

The conference brought together business, nonprofit, and government representatives to learn about health and human services needs in Fairfax, including those of older adults and persons with disabilities, and invited entrepreneurs to offer business ideas in response to those challenges. Among the proposals pitched was Caregiver Support Services. For more information about the event, visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/human-services-council>.

The third annual 50+ Employment Expo took place on Thursday, May 11, 2017, at the Fair Oaks Marriott. The event was sponsored by the Jewish Council for the Aging, Fairfax County, and six community partners: Volunteer Fairfax, the LTCCC (Long Term Care Coordinating Council), AARP, Marriott Fair Oaks, RSVP Northern Virginia, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

More than 400 individuals attended (of whom two secured employment on the spot), along with 20 community resource organizations and 46 potential employers from fields ranging from government and nonprofits to health care, retail, technology, and more. A résumé room and a technology center provided on-site services. Participants had a choice of six seminars led by local experts: *Job Search in the Digital Age*, *Job Loss Survival Guide*, *Strategies for Battling Age Discrimination in Your Job Search*, *Résumé Preparation*, *Volunteer Engagement*, *Lifelong Learning Opportunities*, and *Finding Your Peer Group in Retirement*.

Volunteer Solutions will partner again next year with the Jewish Council on Aging to host the fourth annual 50+ Employment Expo on April 30, 2018.

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N)	
Progress:	●●●
Champions:	Sharon Canner and Judy Seiff, Long Term Care Coordinating Council, and Cherie Lejeune, The Fairfax County Federation
COA Advocate:	Catherine Cole, At-Large
County Liaisons:	Patricia Rohrer, Health Department; Evan Braff, Dept. of Neighborhood and Community Services; and Trina Mayhan-Webb, AAA/Dept. of Family Services

Goal: Increase awareness of neighborhood models, such as the Villages, as well as online tools that facilitate neighborhood interaction and support. Outreach will be targeted to homeowner’s associations, neighborhood associations, faith communities, and ethnic community groups.

Update: The committee has developed a Neighbor to Neighbor PowerPoint that contains easy-to-read notes which allow homeowners, civic and community associations, and other neighborhood groups to use it without needing a committee member or County staff person present. The presentation provides contact information for the County’s neighbor-helping-neighbor/village liaison for additional guidance. One-page companion handouts have been created on the following topics: *Tips for Volunteer Management*, *Virtual Connections*, and *Neighborhood Connectors*. The PowerPoint presentation and the Toolkit developed in 2016 by the N2N Committee will continue to be made available.

Plans for the next year include (1) promoting the PowerPoint presentation to neighborhood associations in more districts; (2) encouraging adoption of the Neighborhood Knock program piloted in one neighborhood in 2016 on an annual or semi-annual basis in targeted neighborhoods throughout the Fairfax area; and (3) exploring optimal ways to integrate more and better technology into N2N programs, recognizing that many neighborhoods are using technology to connect to neighbors.

Kaleidoscope 50+	
Progress:	●●
Champion:	Dorothy Keenan, Positive Aging Coalition
COA Advocate:	Sharron Dreyer, Lee District
County Liaison:	Linda Hernandez-Giblin, AAA/Dept. of Family Services

Goals: Assist multicultural groups to understand Fairfax County services available to them and enhance cross-cultural understanding. With Supervisor Penny Gross’s Kaleidoscope program and Sandy Chisholm’s Faith Communities in Action program as models, the Kaleidoscope initiative can meet both needs. The initiative will build upon the AAA’s Community Ambassadors program already active in the Korean and Vietnamese communities.

Update: Kaleidoscope 50+ uses the AAA 50+ Community Ambassadors program (see “Creating a Communication Buzz,” page 9) to reach out to the diverse cultural population of Fairfax County. Community members from particular populations are invited to meetings where they learn about County services and programs so they can relay that information back to their communities. The program seeks to ensure that language population groups are receiving critical information in their own language. This past year, the Korean, Spanish, Filipino, Jewish, and African-America populations received information through a Community Ambassador. The 50+ Community Ambassadors program has also consulted and participated with the Health Department’s Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC) program. Meetings are ongoing to learn from this model, as well as from Supervisor Gross’s Kaleidoscope group.

County liaison Linda Hernandez Giblin is also the 50+ Multicultural and Community Planner for Livable Communities in the Area Agency on Aging. In that capacity, she brings AAA staff into the community through outreach speaking engagements. Recent examples include visits to a Mosque, Korean language group meetings, and an event arranged through the Bolivian Embassy. Linda also spoke to GrandInvolve volunteers about her experience as an immigrant child moving into Fairfax County. At Title 1 schools, GrandInvolve volunteers work with many children from immigrant families. (See “GrandInvolve,” page 15.)

Library Opportunities for 50+

Progress:	●●
Champion:	Linda Schlekau, Manager, Sherwood Regional Library, Fairfax County Public Library
COA Advocate:	Carolyn Sutterfield, Vice Chair, City of Fairfax
County Liaison:	Linda Schlekau, Manager, Sherwood Regional Library, Fairfax County Public Library

Goals: The Fairfax County Public Library will conduct an analysis of its programs and services to meet growing demands of the 50+ population. Part of this analysis will include alternative use of Library space to provide more meeting spaces and services for this population. The Library will also create a 50+ Adults link on its webpage.

Update: The champion of this initiative is one of 20 FCPL staff members on the strategic planning committee that is currently actively engaged in creating new Vision, Mission, and Values statements for the library. They are using input from the recent community survey, as well as staff feedback, to mold that process. These statements will go to the library board and library administration for vetting. In late fall 2017, they expect to have a package that speaks to “who we are and what we do as a library system for Fairfax County.” New director Jessica Hudson recognizes the need for technology balanced with the traditional library services vital to our community--books, programming, and access.

The Adults 50+ link on the FCPL homepage has been in place since 2016. In the past year, the library has extended its collection to include thermal cameras for loan, allowing users to check their homes for needed insulation, and Nature Backpacks that families can take to state parks to learn/read about nature and earth science. In addition to its popular children’s summer reading program, FCPL promotes “1,000 books Before Kindergarten,” a list that is popular with parents, caregivers, and grandparents alike.

Branches serve their local communities with accurate information; topical, age-appropriate programs; and usable collections. One proposal being actively worked on is for a “Memory Depot,” with pilots to be located initially at the Virginia Room at the City of Fairfax Library and at Sherwood Library in Alexandria. The Depots will facilitate personal digital archiving, giving users the ability to convert their slides, videos, pictures, etc., into a digital format to create or supplement their family histories.

TRANSPORTATION

NV Rides	
Progress:	●●●●
Champion:	Jennifer Kanarek, Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia
COA Advocate:	N/A
County Liaison:	Patricia Rohrer, Health Department

Goals: Support the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia's effort to provide a volunteer driver program support hub for community-based organizations. By partnering with nonprofits across the County, this program will increase the capacity of volunteer driver programs to arrange rides for older adults who are unable to drive and help organizations setup volunteer driver programs.

Update: NV Rides supports a network of volunteer driver programs for non-driving adults age 55+ and aims to increase awareness of volunteer transportation for senior adults throughout the region. It provides community-based organizations access to free ride-scheduling software, background checks, marketing & recruitment support, and program-development support. The Internet-based ride scheduling system enables volunteers to accept rides according to their own schedules. In addition to the software and support described above, service providers attend quarterly meetings, where they share successes and challenges and participate in workshops with outside facilitators.

The NV Rides program started with 4 community-based programmatic partners, and now has a total of 10: At Home in Alexandria, Herndon Village Network, Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers, Mount Vernon at Home, Ravensworth Baptist Church (program offered only to congregants), Reston Community Center, Shepherd’s Center of Annandale-Springfield, Shepherd’s Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, Shepherd’s Center of Western Fairfax County, and, most recently, J Rides@the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. The last is a volunteer driver program that provides free rides to attend fitness/wellness classes, learning programs, or special events. Riders and drivers do not have to be members of the J to use the service or to volunteer.

In FY 2017 the NV Rides network in Fairfax County provided a total of 7,500 rides, given by 276 drivers who spent 5,500 hours driving. An additional 115 new drivers were recruited. Since the program started in October 2014, a total of 353 drivers have registered to give volunteer rides in Fairfax County.

NV Rides’ latest marketing initiative, *Going Places: Safe Driving as You Age*, is an outreach event designed to attract senior adults who are still driving. Scheduled speakers and a vendor fair present the work of NV Rides’ partners and other community resources available to older adults. The goal of the event is two-fold; to help keep seniors driving safely for as long as possible (and help them recognize when it is time to give up driving), and to raise awareness of volunteer driver programs that are part of the NV Rides network and beyond.

More than 90 attendees participated in the first *Going Places* event, held in June 2017 at Reston Community Center, with representation from NV Rides partners in Western Fairfax County, Reston, and Herndon. The next program will be held at the Beatley Library in Alexandria on September 25, 2017, with representation from NV Rides partners in Springfield, Annandale, and Mount Vernon.

NV Rides continues to seek out grants, private donors, and corporate sponsorships to diversify its funding and aims to add two or three more partners in Fairfax County this year.

Senior Mobility Fair	
Progress:	●●●●
Champions:	Cherie Leporatti, Metro Access, and Jeanna Muhoro, Human Services Transportation
COA Advocate:	Bob Kuhns, Mount Vernon District
County Liaison:	N/A

Goals: Promote safe driving and the transition from driving to volunteer and public transportation through sponsorship of a Senior Mobility Fair and a Channel 16 Mature Living program to educate older adults about transportation options.

Update: This initiative was achieved with the inclusion of a Senior Mobility Fair as part of the Living Well, Aging Well Summit held at the Government Center in April 2016. A list of transportation resources was distributed in booklet form as a ready guide to transportation services in the Northern Virginia area. Vehicles on display at the Government Center included a MetroAccess van, a wheelchair-accessible cab, a MetroBus, a Connector bus, and a Fairfax City CUE bus. Organizations participating were Fairfax County Human Transportation, Metro, Connector, MetroAccess, Travel Training Program, CUE fixed route, the ARC of Northern Virginia, ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia, and several volunteer driver programs. FASTRAN shuttle bus services brought attendees to the Summit from Fairfax County senior centers and some senior housing sites.

Universal Real-Time Online Transit Data Portal	
Progress	●●●●
Champion:	Tom Bash, COA, Springfield District
COA Advocate:	Tom Bash, Springfield District
County Liaison:	Efon Epanty, Transit Services Division

Goal: Support development of a Northern Virginia Universal Real-Time On-Line Transit Data Portal that will provide instantaneous information about routes, schedules, and travel conditions.

Update: This initiative has been achieved. Fairfax County’s Department of Transportation worked with Clever Devices, a contractor, to implement real-time tracking and computer-aided dispatch on the Fairfax Connector system. Fairfax Connector schedules were made available to the General Transit Feed System, administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation, which then integrated this information with other local and regional transit data to create the transit data portal.

The new webpage, [Fairfax Connector BusTracker](#), provides automatic vehicle-locator service to improve safety, passenger convenience, and system operation. It works on a computer or on a mobile device. Having up-to-the-minute transit information not only allows older adults and people with disabilities to spend less time waiting at bus stops, but also makes it easier for them to plan longer trips within the metropolitan D.C. area.

On the home page, users can click on *"Estimated Arrival Times"*; select their bus route, direction of travel, and preferred bus stop; and the web page will display the estimated arrival times for the next bus. Choosing the Bus Location map feature lets users track buses in real time by selecting a specific route or a stop. Users can also sign up for real-time notifications and receive emails and text messages about their bus at specified times, stops, and routes.

For tips on getting started, plus a link to the portal and a feedback form for asking questions or offering comments, visit the County’s Fairfax Connection BusTracker information page at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/bustracker/.

Mobility Management Program	
Progress:	●●
Champion:	Susan Shaw, Dept. of Neighborhood and Community Services
COA Advocate:	Bob Kuhns, Mount Vernon District

County Liaison(s):	Jill Clark, Fairfax Area Mobility and Transportation Committee, Disability Services Planning and Development
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Goals: Establish a mobility management program in Fairfax County to improve the coordination of human services transportation and promote access to affordable and safe public transportation for all residents.

Update: In 2016, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), through the Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG), awarded Fairfax County’s Department of Neighborhood and Community Services an Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Grant. The grant is intended to create a more effective and efficient system of transportation services for older adults and individuals with disabilities and support options for individuals to age in place. Under the grant work plan, mobility management staff have

- Conducted an environmental scan that examined the barriers, challenges, and gaps in service for the identified population.
- Completed an inventory of all front-door staff and access points who have direct interaction with seniors and individuals with disabilities, as well as those who respond to incoming transportation requests.
- Redesigned the County’s Transportation web pages, including the Mobility Management landing page, where the public can learn about transportation services, stay connected, and get involved.
- Created an inventory of transportation options available in the community.
- Worked with County GIS to implement an online interactive map that helps individuals locate transportation resources available from a specific address in Fairfax County.
- Participated with over 10 community groups in a transportation “assessment,” engaging participants in meaningful dialogue about their transportation challenges.

Mobility management staff have also worked closely with staff within Human Services Transportation to assist in streamlining the Critical Medical Care program, creating more efficient service delivery. Additionally, mobility management staff have been able to increase capacity within our programs by connecting low-income Spanish-speaking clients to additional resources and services.

Staff are currently finalizing design of a “Mobility Toolkit”, both in print and online, that can inform individuals about transportation options, travel training, and volunteer transportation, and link them with public transportation options and other programs. Staff will be working with the front-door staff who have interaction with seniors and individuals with disabilities to improve access to, and knowledge of, available transportation services.

Partnership to Provide Medical Transportation

Progress:	●●
Champion:	Susan Shaw, DNCS
COA Advocate:	Kay Larmer, Chair, Dranesville District
County Liaison:	Jill Clark, Fairfax Area Mobility and Transportation Committee, Disability Services

Goals: Ensure that older adults have access to quality and timely health care, particularly after a recent hospitalization. A work group of public, private, and nonprofit representatives, together with hospital representatives, will develop a plan to offer subsidized medical transportation to Medicare patients following a hospital discharge.

Update: A workgroup comprised of community-based organizations, including NV Rides and Inova, and County staff, including the departments of Family Services, Health, and Neighborhood and Community Services, came together to explore models and discuss opportunities to provide older adults with access to non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) services and resources. The objectives were (1) to make sure that access points, where individuals enter our system looking for medical transportation, provide information on current resources and options, and (2), to create a pilot that ensures a streamlined process to access service options for those needing transportation to non-emergency medical care.

The proposed pilot first includes a process-improvement element, whereby individuals who once may have had to fill out multiple applications to apply for various programs can now apply through one application. They will also receive a comprehensive assessment of transportation needs through Human Services Transportation that will allow seniors to hear about all available options, not just county-sponsored programs, that may meet their transportation needs. Additionally, to build capacity of the human services systems, mobility management staff within Human Services Transportation will implement a Mobility Toolkit. The kit will enable potential users to learn how to access the pilot, provide information about the application process, and list further transportation resources and options individuals may qualify for.

The pilot then includes providing a one-time funding resource through the Enhanced Mobility Grant, Northern Virginia Mobility Access Project. This grant-funded initiative, implemented through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, is intended to create a more effective and efficient system of transportation services and options for older adults and individuals with disabilities to age in place. The funding will be used to create additional direct client services, build capacity in community programs, and leverage community partnerships through potential cost-sharing options.

This step in the pilot will infuse a small amount of funding and resources into three areas through which seniors are connected to medical transportation services: the human services front-door access points, volunteer transportation programs, and/or a health care provider or system. The proposed system also includes a process whereby, after establishing that a ride is not already available through a volunteer, public, or other individual transportation resource, qualified seniors and/or individuals with disabilities may access the pilot program to provide taxi services for their medical appointment.

In addition to increasing direct client resources, the pilot will work with existing volunteer transportation programs to explore utilizing grant funding to recruit and train additional volunteer drivers. Lastly, to support a sustainable enhancement of the resources available to seniors, this pilot will look for willing health care providers or systems where grant funding can be leveraged to provide additional transportation resources, in a similar capacity to the front-door access points and volunteer transportation. Based on the evaluation and success of the program, there is potential to apply for more grant funding to sustain the program.

HOUSING

Accessibility Guide for Home Modifications	
Progress:	●●●●
Champion and County Liaison:	Matt Barkley, Building for All Committee (BFAC) and Disability Services Planning and Development
COA Advocate:	Carolyn Sutterfield, Vice Chair, City of Fairfax

Goals: Partner with nonprofit, public, and private entities to educate older adults and home repair contractors about the benefits of accessible home modifications. Develop a guide to identify options for the most common improvements, such as a step-free or ramp entrance, widened doorways, and bathrooms with ample room to maneuver. Partner with nonprofits that offer accessible home modification services to help the most vulnerable and lowest-income older adults remain in their own homes as long as possible.

Update: After consultation with advisors from AARP, Rebuilding Together, Disability Services, the Area Agency on Aging, and the Building for All Committee (BFAC), it was agreed last year that an excellent guide to the most common home modifications for older adults and people with disabilities already existed in the form of the revised *HomeFit Guide* published by AARP. The 24-page guide (with available worksheets) is currently used in HomeFit seminars conducted in the Fairfax area; it is available to the public at resource fairs and other public events and online at AARP’s Livable Communities home page (<http://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/>).

Instead of reinventing that wheel, it was decided to focus on an insert for the back of the *HomeFit Guide*, detailing Fairfax area resources for home modification. With input from the advisors, the then champion and COA advocate compiled and edited “Fairfax Area Resources for Home Modifications,” comprising (1) a list of financial resources available to older owners and owners with disabilities who wish to modify their homes, and (2) a list of tips for first engaging a professional advisor, such as an occupational therapist or Certified Aging in Place Specialist, and then completing the process by deciding which modifications to make, obtaining permits, and choosing and working with a contractor.

The Fairfax Area Resources list, now updated for 2017, is available online on the Disabilities Services web page (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/disabilities/local-homemods.htm) and the Older Adults web page (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults/).

Help People Stay in Their Homes with Technology

Progress:	●●●●
Champion:	Marci Kinase Jerome, The Kellar Institute, GMU
COA Advocate:	Catherine Cole, At-Large
County Liaisons:	Theresa Brown, Volunteer Solutions, AAA/DFS; Jacquie Woodruff, Livable Communities, AAA/DFS; and Chris Scales, Dept. of Neighborhood and Community Services

Goals: This initiative has had two goals: (1) to establish a volunteer program through Volunteer Solutions and interested community nonprofits to recruit, train, and manage tech-savvy volunteers to provide free technology assistance to residents age 60 and older; and (2) to establish a Technology Work Group with nonprofit, community, and education partners to evaluate technology that may help older adult residents stay in their homes.

Update: In response to Goal 1, Volunteer IT On-Call, now fully implemented, assists older adults with technology challenges. When County residents call in to the Aging, Disability, and Caregiver Resource phone line, asking for help with their computers or digital devices, a volunteer is assigned to visit the caller to resolve the IT issue at no charge. Between May 2014 and April 2017, 283 older adults called with 29 different types of requests for technology assistance; 475 particular needs were met; and 45 volunteers provided a total of 1,910 hours of service. The success of the program is entirely due to the structure and oversight developed by the Volunteer Solution's Process Manager who oversees the dedicated and skilled volunteers.

In response to Goal 2, the Fairfax High School Technology Challenge (Shark Tank), now in its 3rd year, challenges high school students to design, test, and develop an assistive device or app that will help older adults and/or their family caregivers to maintain independent living. This work group, whose membership includes FCPS educators, nonprofit community representatives, and innovation technology business partners, has successfully carried out two challenge program years, with support from NCS and Fairfax AAA Livable Communities, and has embarked on the third challenge.

In school year 2016-17, 125 high school students participated in the challenge, presenting 45 individual and team innovation proposals. Nine projects (the maximum possible) were sent on to the "Shark Tank" judging event, resulting in 4 winning projects. The students representing these projects received a combined total of \$6,000 in cash awards, donated by business partners IntegrityOne Partners and Refraction.

In 2016, adults with disabilities were specifically added to the challenge's target population. The work group will begin receiving 2017-18 proposals in December 2017, and judging will commence in February 2018, with the final "Shark Tank" judging in March. This initiative is now fully operational, and the work group is currently focused on developing best practices and educational materials to assist participating students and teachers.

Latitude in Land Use Cases for Affordable Older Adult Housing

Progress:	●●●
Champion:	Regina Coyle, Dept. of Planning and Zoning
COA Advocate:	Carolyn Sutterfield, Vice Chair, City of Fairfax
County Liaisons:	Abdirazak Hamud, Dept. of Housing and Community Development, and Jacquie Woodruff, AAA/Dept. of Family Services

Goals: Encourage construction of older adult housing in walkable communities near transit. The County’s Independent Living land use designation currently allows construction of

independent-living projects in residentially zoned areas and certain commercial zoning districts, subject to the approval of a Special Exception by the Board of Supervisors. The initiative proposes to ensure that our land use tools (Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance) promote and encourage the development of older adult housing opportunities in Transportation-Oriented Development areas. The net effect would be to encourage such development by reducing land cost.

Update: A compendium of the existing policy guidance and incentives pertaining to the provision of Older Adult Housing contained within the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance was compiled by Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), published in brochure format, and posted on its website in September 2015. Among the incentives noted are the density multiplier of up to 4 times the Comprehensive Plan recommendation in certain areas and an exemption to the contribution to schools, due to the net zero impact to the school system.

In June 2016, the Priority 1 Zoning Ordinance Amendment Work Program authorized by the Board of Supervisors included an amendment item to address a series of topics relevant to “Older Adult Housing (Fairfax 50+). Adopted without a project timeline, the Work Program item directs County officials to “consider changes to the applicable regulations regarding housing opportunities for older adults, including such factors as

- update terminology to describe the use(s);
- review existing parking regulations;
- review minimum acreage requirements for certain uses;
- composition/timing/scope of involvement of the Health Care Advisory Board; and
- opportunities for expansion of the use of accessory dwelling units for older adults.”

Future growth of a mixed-use urban walkable nature is planned to occur within the activity centers of Fairfax County, including the transit station areas. Research indicates that approximately 130 new older adult housing units are pending review within the Wiehle Transit Station Area of Fairfax County, compared to approximately 325 older adult housing units pending review outside of a designated activity center.

The 2017 Zoning Ordinance Amendment Work Program adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 20, 2017, included an amendment topic directed at older adult housing. It directs DPZ to develop a new district/use and appropriate regulations for a Continuing Care Community (CCC) to permit a “full spectrum” of care/accommodations in a single development. This Board initiative arose from the recommendations of the 50+ Plan, coordination with industry providers, and staff’s experience with actual developments that mix independent-living facilities (considered residential dwelling units) with assisted living facilities, which are classified as medical care facilities in the zoning ordinance.

Under current regulations, the Zoning Ordinance does not provide for a single use that incorporates all elements of a CCC, which could include independent living, assisted living, adult day care, nursing/memory/hospice care, medical care uses, medical offices, and an assortment of ancillary uses, such as retail sales, restaurants, and recreation uses. The

existing regulations do not adequately address the continuing-care concept in terms of density/intensity implications, mix of services, and the provision of affordable units, given the high costs associated with providing services to the occupants.

Staff will continue to evaluate a number of options to address this topic, including potentially creating a new planned development district to establish a CCC that offers a broad spectrum of opportunities for residential accommodations, as well as on-site amenities and services, such as day care, social support, and medical services. Providers of independent-living and assisted-living facilities are actively exploring opportunities to locate new facilities in urbanizing areas of the County, such as Reston and Merrifield.

Mixed-use walkable communities are typically developed under the Planned Development (P) District provisions of the Zoning Ordinance. It may be more appropriate to create a continuing care use to be included among the permitted uses within a P District. The options under consideration are to be presented to stakeholders for review and comment during Fall 2017.

Universal Design (UD)	
Progress:	●●●
Champion:	Fairfax County Building for All Committee (BFAC), Fairfax Area Disability Services Board, Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC)
COA Advocate:	Tom Bash, Springfield District
County Liaison(s):	Matt Barkley, Disability Services Planning and Development

Goals: Incorporating Universal Design (UD) into newly constructed single-family homes is a way to ensure the strength and vitality of our community. UD features, such as zero-step entries, wider doors and hallways, and first-floor master suites, create a living environment that is free of barriers and enables everyone to flourish. UD houses are designed to be multi-generational for a lifetime, places where people can age in place independently and be less dependent on limited community services and less likely to be forced prematurely into assisted-living or nursing facilities.

Update: In Fiscal Year 2016, Fairfax County’s Building for All Committee (BFAC) conducted seven public outreach events and educated over 400 people about the benefits of UD. The most successful event, with about 100 participants, was a March 25 “Reinventing Your Home” workshop facilitated in partnership with AARP’s “HomeFit” curriculum, at which BFAC presented the “Fairfax Area Resources for Home Modifications” list, also developed under the 50+ Plan, to help older adults and people with disabilities stay in their own homes.

Also in the past year, BFAC partnered with Fairfax County’s Universal Design Ombudsman in the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) to update and redesign Fairfax County’s Universal Design brochure. BFAC and DPWES also worked together to submit comments regarding proposed changes to the Virginia Statewide Uniform Building Code that would have a negative impact on the number of universally designed homes built throughout the commonwealth, including in Fairfax County. Finally, BFAC worked with the Area Agency on Aging’s Public Information Officer to develop another YouTube post highlighting the benefits of UD.

In May 2017, BFAC continued to grow its partnership with the Foundation for Applied Technical Education (FATE). FATE is a community-based organization that sponsors instructional

programs that give high school students in Career and Technical Education the opportunity to participate in work-based learning. In conjunction with BFAC, FCPS students will design and construct single-family homes with UD features, creating a wonderful opportunity to promote UD features that enhance the functionality of a living space in an aesthetically pleasing way, without significant increase in costs. FATE is helping to educate a new generation of homebuilders about the benefits of UD, so they will be well prepared to incorporate UD features into future homes they design and construct in the Fairfax area.

At a Fair Housing Taskforce meeting on March 1, BFAC established a successful partnership with the Fairfax County Fair Housing Taskforce, resulting in a mutually beneficial relationship with the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR). An article that BFAC wrote for NVAR's quarterly magazine about ways that UD features benefit everyone was well received by realtors and UD advocates. BFAC continues to encourage the adoption of a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) for real estate brokers that would acquaint them with UD concepts.

After finding that a list of trainings currently offered by the Virginia Real Estate Board's Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation does not include one on UD, BFAC has committed to develop a training, in collaboration with NVAR, that can educate realtors about the benefits of UD by focusing on its positive features, thereby helping overcome some of the stigma associated with "accessible housing."

BFAC will continue to foster partnerships with realtors, builders, and housing providers. One project for 2018 will be to produce a 30-minute video to educate the public on UD and increase demand by homeowners for UD features.

Home Sharing Initiative	
Progress:	●●
Champion:	Dan Flavin and Patricia Williams, GraceFul Care, and the Housing Committee of the Long Term Care Coordinating Council
COA Advocate:	Kay Larmer, Chair, Dranesville District
County Liaison:	Patricia Rohrer, Health Department

Goals: To foster the implementation of Home Sharing in the Fairfax community through the development of a "how-to" guide for home sharing for older adults and to seek organizations to help launch this program in their community.

Update: The County's Home Sharing Guidebook, titled "A Consumer's Guide to Home Sharing," has been developed and is currently under review by County staff. Champion Dan Flavin, president of the GraceFul Care agency, established a home share nonprofit entity, GraceFul Homeshare, incorporated in Virginia. A brochure was printed in January 2016, but the program has not been able to provide this service due to a lack of staff and additional resources.

In July 2017, the McLean Community: A Village for All Ages (McLeanCVA) submitted, in response to an AARP Community Challenge Grant, a proposal to pilot a sustainable, replicable system for adult home sharing in Fairfax by building on the core resident community of McLean. Unfortunately, the proposal was not funded. McLeanCVA is continuing to investigate funding sources for this proposal. GraceFul Homeshare will also continue to

seek potential home seekers and home sharers through its website, e-mail, and phone contacts, to build up a database and begin making successful matches.

Neighborhood-Based Older Adult Housing	
Progress:	●●
Champion:	Regina Coyle, Dept. of Planning and Zoning
COA Advocate:	Carolyn Sutterfield, Vice Chair, City of Fairfax
County Liaison(s):	Abdirazak Hamud, Dept. of Housing and Community Development; Jacquie Woodruff, AAA/Dept. of Family Services

Goals: Encourage the use of the independent Living Special Exception for construction of multi-family older-adult housing in potential smart-growth locations, such as neighborhood shopping centers, faith-based properties, and public facility properties. This would allow residents to downsize and still remain in their neighborhoods.

Update: Older residents who are unable to stay in their current houses for a variety of reasons desire options that allow them to “age in place” in their current communities. Following on the publication of “Older Adult Housing Policies & Regulations in Fairfax County” (see “Latitude in Land Use Cases,” page 25.), Fairfax area zoning officials and proponents of older adult housing in existing neighborhoods have continued to promote the development of independent-living housing in the County and in the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church.

Research for the period from January 2012 through July 2017 indicates that approximately 762 independent living and 755 assisted living units/beds have been approved through the zoning process in areas outside activity centers. In addition, 91 approvals to permit an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) for an older adult or person with a disability at an existing single-family detached lot have been granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals. An ADU allows for the installation of all the components of a dwelling unit (living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation) within an existing single-family detached structure or, on lots of 2 acres or more, within an accessory structure on the property.

The ADU housing option is the current neighborhood-based, older-adult housing option of choice for a segment of older adults, homeowners, and caregivers. Concerns have been raised by applicants about the level of paperwork and complexity of the review process. The process should be examined to determine if certain ADU applications could be reviewed administratively, subject to satisfaction of standard criteria. Staff has been researching this matter and expects to report findings at an upcoming development process committee meeting.

Home Property Management Services	
Progress:	●
Champion:	N/A
COA Advocate:	Carolyn Sutterfield, Vice Chair, City of Fairfax
County Liaisons:	Susan Jones, Consumer Affairs, and Jacquie Woodruff, AAA/Dept. of Family Services

Goals: Encourage businesses and nonprofits to develop property management services for older adults living in single-family homes. Such services would conduct periodic inspections,

help vet contractors when needed, serve as a point of connection with volunteer groups that may provide periodic services, and help keep the home in safe and sound condition.

Update: The initiative, as conceived, failed because its champion abandoned it early in the process, and there was no other participating entity to pick up the ball. However, it was never exactly clear how the for-profit and nonprofit elements would work together in this venture.

The COA advocate believes that existing nonprofit programs, such as the County's Home Repair for the Elderly and Rebuilding Together of Arlington-Fairfax-Falls Church, are helping to meet the needs of low- and middle-income older adult homeowners. (Note: The income limits to receive help from Home Repair for the Elderly were recently raised to \$52,550 for a 1-person household and \$60,050 for 2 people.) For homeowners in higher income brackets, services such as Angie's List (now free to users) or the nonprofit Consumer's Checkbook provide access to lists of consumer-recommended, for-profit service providers for home maintenance. Anyone wishing to check on a prospective contractor is invited to contact Fairfax County's Consumer Affairs department at 703-222-8435 (TTY 711).