



January 10, 2019

### **Drug Take Back Box Program Goes Countywide**

I am very proud to have initiated this program over two years ago and of the tremendous success we have seen with the pilot program here at the West Springfield District Police Station. Getting unused prescriptions properly disposed of is an important step in addressing the opioid public health crisis.

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program:** Fairfax County is developing a comprehensive Public Safety Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program and would like to hear from residents on what they think. The Office of Emergency Management will be hosting six public information meetings located throughout Fairfax County.
- **Save the Date:** Springfield District paving and restriping meeting set for March 20 from 6:30-8:30 at the West Springfield Government Center
- **Tax Relief Workshop:** My office will be hosting a tax relief workshop for residents at the West Springfield Government Center on March 25 from 10-1.

### **Drug Take Back Box Program Goes Countywide**

I am pleased to report that this week the County expanded the Prescription Drug Take Back Box Program Countywide. These boxes are available 24/7/365 at each district police station. In January of 2017, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved my motion to establish permanent Drug Take Back Boxes in each of our police stations. These boxes were proven successful in many jurisdictions across the Country and the Commonwealth.

After working through a number of issues with County staff, in October of 2017, the first Fairfax County Drug Take Back Box was piloted in the lobby of the West Springfield District Police Station. The box has been available in the lobby for any person to anonymously and safely dispose of their unused prescription medications 24/7/365 - no questions asked. Since its inception, the Drug Take Back Box has been a tremendous success, accumulating over 735 pounds of prescription drugs and opioids to date. The program is being administered by the Property and Evidence Section of the Fairfax County Police Department so there will be minimal disruption to the important work of our police station personnel.

While the County is not seeing the opioid public health crisis as acutely as other parts of Virginia, we must continue to face the fact that the opioid crisis is in our neighborhoods and schools. Addiction is happening in all parts of the County. It is important to get unused medicines, especially opioids, out of your medicine cabinets to prevent accidental or illicit use. Since about 75% of opioid addicts start with prescription drugs, this is another important step in addressing the opioid public health crisis. Several Fairfax County pharmacies also take back unused prescription drugs or provide disposal bags. For a current list please go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/4-ways-to-safely-dispose-of-unused-medications/>. I have also pushed for legislation to increase the number of pharmacies that will take back unused prescription drugs and I hope we can get it passed in Richmond this year.

This is just one of the many initiatives I have been pursuing to address the opioid public health crisis. For more information on my efforts see the links below:

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#### **Stay Connected**



### **Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program**

Fairfax County is developing a comprehensive Public Safety Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program and would like to hear from residents on what they think. The Office of Emergency Management will be hosting six public information meetings located throughout Fairfax County.

Each public information meeting will include a static display of unmanned aircraft followed by a presentation outlining the program. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to ask questions from representatives of the Office of Emergency Management, County Attorney's Office, Police and Fire and Rescue Department. The formal presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.

To find out more about the UAS program go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/uas](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/uas). The draft public safety UAS program manual is located there along with a link to the email account.

Please send feedback or questions to [uas@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:uas@fairfaxcounty.gov) or through the link located on the UAS webpage. Written comments on the draft program must be received by the close of business Feb. 8, 2019 to be included in the official public record.

Below are the dates, times, and locations of each public meeting:

Jan. 14, 2019 (6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)  
Mason District Governmental Center (Community Room)  
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003

Jan. 16, 2019 (6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)  
South County Governmental Center (Room 221C)  
8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309

Jan. 23, 2019 (6:30 P.M. - 8:30 p.m.)  
McLean District Governmental Center  
1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101

Jan. 24, 2019 (6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)  
Sully District Governmental Center  
4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly, VA 20151

Jan. 28, 2019 (6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)  
Reston Community Center - Hunter Woods  
2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191

Jan. 30, 2019 (6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)  
Braddock Hall - Kings Park Library  
9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015

### **Springfield District Paving and Restriping Meeting**

The Virginia Department of Transportation and Fairfax County Department of Transportation will host a community information meeting to discuss this year's paving and restriping efforts in the Springfield District. The meeting will be held on March 20, 2019 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, Virginia, 22152.

The meeting will provide residents with an opportunity to speak directly with road engineers and transportation planners about the paving program, proposed striping changes, and general traffic safety concerns.

### **Free 2019 Tax Relief Workshops for Older Adults and People with Disabilities**

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is hosting a series of free tax relief workshops in late February and March at several locations throughout the County. Real estate and vehicle tax relief is available for older adults over 65 years of age and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications. Staff from the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration (DTA) will be at the

qualifications. Staff from the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration (DTA) will be at the locations listed below to assist with filling out the application form, as well as answering questions.

The schedule is by district and you may contact the phone numbers listed below for more information on our workshop:

Springfield District  
March 25, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. - No appointment necessary.  
West Springfield Governmental Center  
6140 Rolling Road, Springfield  
703-451-8873

For more information, go to DTA's [website](#) or call 703-222-8234, TTY 711