



## MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

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### **Speakers, candlelight vigil mark Overdose Awareness Day in Northampton**

Speakers, a candlelight vigil, an art exhibit and community resource fair will mark International Overdose Awareness Day Tuesday, Aug. 28, in Pulaski Park on Main Street in Northampton. The event begins at 2 p.m. with a variety of information tables, Narcan training, an interactive wall of remembrance, and Safe Shape, a public health art exhibit. At 6 p.m. the evening program will be held, including addresses from people affected by the opioid crisis and those working in the field. There will be candle-lighting and names read aloud to remember those who lost their lives to opioid misuse.

The city-sponsored program is being organized by Tapestry Health and Hampshire HOPE, the regional opioid prevention coalition run out of the City of Northampton's Health Department, with support from Eliot House, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, the Northampton Recovery Center, HRH413, and the New England Users Union.

International Overdose Awareness Day has been marked in communities worldwide since 2001 with events held during the last week of August with the goal of reducing stigma, increasing awareness of the prevalence of overdose deaths and supporting those struggling with the disease.

Safe Shape is a traveling exhibit showcasing the features of safe injection facilities. The installation shows what these facilities look like and how they work to educate people about their role in harm reduction services. This exhibit is being sponsored by the grassroots harm reduction advocacy group HRH413. For more information about the exhibit, visit this link:

<http://safeshapesif.com/>

For more information on Tapestry overdose prevention trainings and how to receive one, visit [www.tapestryhealth.org](http://www.tapestryhealth.org). For more information about Hampshire HOPE and its programs, visit <http://www.hampshirehope.org>.

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