



home > city hall > press releases

Free Housing Expo and Homebuyer Workshop

The City of Perris will host a “housing expo and homebuyer workshop” on Feb. 22 for residents seeking to purchase their first house, needing help with a down payment or closing costs or seeking mortgage modifications.

Participants in the free workshop must register prior to the event and can do so by calling the City of Perris at 951-943-5003 or the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County at 951-682-6581 or 1-800-655-1812.

The workshop takes place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The housing expo will be held from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Both programs take place at the Bob Glass Gym on the Perris City Hall Campus, 101 North D Street.

Housing Manager Sabrina Chavez says attending the workshop can reduce the mystery and stress that often come with purchasing a home.

“There is truly something for everyone here,” Chavez said. “We will have lenders, vendors, realtors, non-profits and contractors on site to answer all sorts of questions. This is a great time to talk to a wide variety of experts.”

Topics slated for the homebuyer workshop include the importance of budgeting to make on-time mortgage payments, the home-buying process, how to identify predatory lending, understanding the mortgage-loan process and how a credit score can affect a potential purchase.

Other topics slated for discussion include information about available refinancing options, mortgage-modification assistance, government subsidies, how to prevent foreclosures and housing improvement programs.

Chavez said the housing market in Perris is recovering after a long and deep slowdown. Some people who had to sell their homes at the height of the recession are once again in the market to purchase, she said. That’s why realtors with houses for sale will be attending.

“People want to see what’s out there and what’s available,” Chavez said.

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