



Perris Press Release

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Residents Get Updates at Town Hall Meeting

Perris officials held a recent town-hall meeting, providing residents with updates about various construction projects, new parks and recreation opportunities for youth and their chance to get involved in the City's ongoing healthy-living initiatives.

Following updates by elected officials and City department heads, Perris Mayor Daryl Busch turned the meeting into a question-and-answer session, fielding inquiries from one resident interested in volunteering and another who wanted to know the status of a couple of construction projects.

Perris resident Ruth Chavers didn't bring a question—she brought a resounding compliment.

"You folks have done a fantastic job and I am so proud to be a resident of this City," said Chavers, who has lived in Perris for 24 years. "It is important to me to let you know that you are doing a good job."

Chavers thanked Perris officials for their recent and ongoing efforts to improve the City's infrastructure, which include new interchanges at I-215 and Fourth Street and at Ramona Expressway, ongoing improvements to the area around Fourth and D Streets and continuing efforts to return D Street businesses to their historic 1880s look. She said she also was pleased to hear the City is renovating its parks system, will open the Downtown Mercado Park next month and awaits the opening of a regional aquatics park in the next year.

Chavers, who lives near Downtown, said she is pleased that Perris officials are committed to improving the historic heart and core of the City.

Michal Morales, Capital Improvements Manager, outlined how Perris officials are renovating parks from one end of town to the other, with new turf, more efficient irrigation systems and upgraded play areas.

Michael McDermott, the City's Redevelopment and Economic Development Manager, said work on the Home Depot center to fulfill online orders is progressing and construction could start soon on a super Wal-Mart on Perris Boulevard. The City's economic development activities also include efforts to attract franchise restaurants to Perris.

Assistant City Manager Ron Carr, in his remarks to the crowd, said that the "Live Well Perris" campaign officially kicks off June 15 at the Community Health Fair at Foss Field Park adjacent to the City Hall Campus. That event will feature tips about healthy eating, dance contests, rock-climbing, more than 80 vendors and the initial weigh-in for contestants in the City's "Biggest Loser Perris" contest. In addition, the City is encouraging residents to take part in The President's Challenge, an individualized program of physical fitness and healthy eating goals.

Carr also announced that the City farmer's market program will restart June 22 with an added emphasis on locally produced fruits and vegetables.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Yarbrough called Perris "a great City" and urged residents to get involved to make it better for everyone. He suggested volunteering for the Perris Citizens Patrol or forming a Neighborhood Watch group.

"Don't complain about things if you're not willing to help out," he said. "We have to look after ourselves."

Perris City Councilwoman Rita Rogers said elected officials have been working with administrators to bring greater dining options to the City. In keeping with her desire to lose weight—she's entered the Biggest Loser contest—Rogers said she hopes future restaurants will offer healthy menu choices.

"We've heard your cries," Rogers said. "We like to eat out too—but we'll be eating healthy!"



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch shakes hands with resident Ruth Chavers following a Town Hall Meeting at City Hall. Chavers thanked City officials doing a "fantastic job" at improving Perris.



Perris Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Yarbrough fields questions during the Town Hall Meeting June 1.