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## Health and History Combine for October 19 Stroll

Put on your walking shoes for a stroll down D Street in Perris, the home of 19th Century national landmarks and 21st-Century gems that stir the passions of residents, historians, school children and visitors.

The City is sponsoring the mile-walk on Oct. 19 as part of its continuing Live Well Perris initiative, an ongoing series of events that emphasize healthy eating and active living. The walk is one of the final events of the 2013-version of Live Well Perris, which has proven an unqualified success, and a program which the City is committed to continue next year.

The upcoming walk includes stops at several iconic Perris locations: City Hall, the Perris Theatre, the Depot Building, Bank of Perris and Southern Hotel are more than 75 years old and have been a part of the City's fabric for generations.

Also included in the walk are the still-under-construction Perris Station Apartments for senior citizens, the low-and-moderate income Mercado Apartments and Mercado Park, both which opened since 2012.

The walk begins at 10 a.m. at City Hall, 101 North D Streets and ends at Mercado Park at 10th and D streets. Water and snacks will be provided at both locations. Raffle prizes will be given out too.

"This walk marries the old with the new," said Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Yarbrough, who plans on taking part in the upcoming event. "The City of Perris began on D Street—it was present at the creation. The street encompasses the past, present and future of our community."

Perris historian Katie Keyes said the first settlers came to the Perris Valley, drawn by the Homestead Act of the 1870s. Gold later was discovered at the Good Hope mine west of the City and later the region known for its fertile soil, which produced a wide variety of grains and fruits. The Transcontinental Railway ran through Perris on its way from New York to San Diego. Fred T. Perris, the chief engineer for the California Southern Railroad, surveyed much of the region. The City adopted his name when it incorporated in 1911.

Keyes said Perris has maintained—indeed restored—many of its original buildings, making it unique to many other cities in Southern California.

"Perris is a very historical town," Keyes said. "The more people know about their City's history, the more they'll appreciate their town."

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch said the City has invested heavily in renovating and beautifying D Street and Downtown Perris. He hopes many people will take advantage of the chance to get a little exercise while picking up a lot of knowledge about this important thoroughfare and its role in the life of Perris.

"We're proud of our efforts to preserve Downtown Perris and D Street," he said. "This is a great opportunity for people to learn about this important part of our City."



The 1892 Perris Depot Building is one of the stops on the upcoming History Walk on Oct. 19.



The art deco Perris Theatre on D Street will be among the attractions featured at the Oct. 19 History Walk, part of the City's Live Well Perris initiative.