



Perris News

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Senior Center Provides Cool Retreat on Hot Days

While temperatures reached triple digits over the weekend, the Perris Senior Center offered cool comfort for those residents seeking to escape the scorching heat for a few hours.

Perris officials say the Senior Center, 100 North D Street, will remain open every weekend in which the temperature is expected to reach 95 degrees or higher.

Deputy City Manager Darren Madkin said staff will monitor the five-day forecast beginning each Tuesday and make plans to open the Center if high temperatures are forecast. The Center will open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

The City will use its website, www.cityofperris.org and Channel 3 to notify residents when the Senior Center will be open when hot weather approaches.

Members of the Perris City Council say they are committed to keeping the Senior Center open this summer.

"We think it is very important to help our senior citizens keep their air-conditioning costs down while providing them a place they can visit with their friends," said Mayor Daryl Busch. "We want to make sure they don't end up suffering heat exhaustion. We think keeping the Center open is very necessary."

Perris City Councilwoman Joanne Evans said that one of the responsibilities of public office is to "look out for the citizens of our community."

"Some of our seniors don't even have enough money for a good fan," she said. "We must protect not only our seniors but others who are critically bothered by the heat. They need a chance to cool their bodies down or else the fire department will be responding to calls of heat stroke."

Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough said he visited the Senior Center Friday. Several people took advantage of the relief offered from the heat, he said. Another 14 people came Sunday.

"If it's hot, we've got to keep it open," he said. "Our senior citizens are among our most fragile and frail residents and whatever we have to do to keep them comfortable, we should do it. We need to make available the public facilities that they pay taxes to support."

Perris City Councilman Al Landers agreed.

"Senior citizens have paid their dues and we need to be cognizant of their needs," Landers said. "A lot of these folks live on fixed incomes and have health concerns. We need to create a safe haven for them where they can relax and be comfortable."