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Perris to Hold First of Riverside County Health Issue Forums

Public health officials have planned a countywide series of community forums to hear from residents about their health-related concerns and create a plan to address them.

The initial meeting takes place at 6 p.m. on Feb. 17 at the Cesar E. Chavez Public Library, 163 East San Jacinto Avenue, across the street from Perris City Hall. Later meetings will take place throughout the county, from Riverside to Blythe.

“It is an ambitious schedule, but it is important that we hear from everyone,” said Susan Harrington, director for the Riverside County Department of Public Health. “Each region of the county is unique, and the needs and concerns of the people living in those communities are unique as well. It is critical that as many people as possible get to express their concerns and needs.”

The City of Perris has taken an active role in improving the health and quality-of-life for its residents. The City in 2015 is continuing its Live Well Perris healthy-eating active-living campaign to encourage residents to make informed choices about their eating choices and exercise regularly.

The program has proven highly successful with thousands of residents taking part in one or more of the dozens of organized activities. Those include morning and afternoon workouts, community health fairs, sports clinics and a “Chef-in-the-Classroom” program to instruct school students about how to prepare healthy snacks. Live Well Perris has received national, state and regional awards.

better understand of the concerns residents have about everything from access to healthcare, education and community safety.

Participants will hear from county health officials about available programs and services, but Harrington said the focus will be on getting input about community needs. Information gathered from all the meetings and the surveys will be used to put together a plan outlining the issues discussed and ways the department and its partners will help address residents’ needs.

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