

ply blood to the heart. In January 2014, Eisenhower Center's Puneet Khanna, M.D., Board Certified Interventional Cardiologist, was the first physician in Riverside County (sixth nationwide) to utilize the Diamondback 360® Coronary Orbital Atherectomy System—an innovative tool for treatment of severely calcified coronary arteries—after its recent Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval.

In healthy arteries, smooth inner walls allow blood to flow easily. In people with CAD, the plaque buildup causes atherosclerosis, in which arteries harden and narrow, reducing blood flow. Arterial plaque can reduce blood flow or, in some instances, block it altogether causing heart attack or stroke. A person is at higher risk of CAD if they have abnormal cholesterol levels, high blood pressure, diabetes, smoking, or family history of early heart disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about half of all Americans have at least one of the three key risk factors of high blood pressure, high cholesterol or smoking.

Eisenhower Medical Center was the site of one of the clinical trials that led to the FDA's recent approval of the Diamondback 360 device that removes calcified plaque from coronary arteries with minimal effect to the surrounding healthy tissue. With its diamond tip, the Diamondback 360 sands arterial plaque down to micro particulates smaller than red blood cells, which are then absorbed and removed by the body. The arteries are then ready for placement of one or multiple stents to keep the artery open and free from additional plaque buildup.

Dr. Khanna's experience with the Diamondback 360 dates back several years. In 2010, Khanna was the first physician in the United States to use the Diamondback 360 technology in the FDA-approved Orbit II clinical trial. "I believe that the Diamondback 360 is an essential advancement in treating patients with this type of disease," says Khanna. "This easy-to-use tool proved, through the Orbit I and II trials, to be safe and effective in treating calcified lesions in order to facilitate stent placement."

To learn more about the physicians at Eisenhower Desert Cardiology Center or to make an appointment, call (760) 346-0642.

Eisenhower Medical Center is a not-for-profit, comprehensive health care institution that includes the 540-bed Eisenhower Hospital, the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center at Eisenhower and the Annenberg Center for Health Sciences at Eisenhower. The Betty Ford Center is also located on the Eisenhower campus. An accredited teaching hospital, the Medical Center is renowned for its Centers of Excellence in Orthopedics at Eisenhower Desert Orthopedic Center, Cardiovascular at the Eisenhower Smilow Heart Center, Neuroscience at the Eisenhower Neuroscience Institute, and Oncology at the Eisenhower Lucy Curci Cancer Center. Situated on 130 acres in Rancho Mirage, and with locations across the valley, the medical center has provided a full range of quality medical and educational services for more than 40 years for residents and visitors to the greater Coachella Valley. For more information, visit emc.org or follow the Eisenhower Medical Center page on Facebook.

LENNAR ANNOUNCES GROUNDBREAKING UNDERWAY FOR LUXURIOUS RECREATION CENTER AT GRIFFIN RANCH

Lennar announced the groundbreaking and trenching has begun for a luxurious, amenities-rich Recreation Center at Griffin Ranch, an exclusive, guard gated, Spanish-style country club community in La Quinta.

Griffin Ranch is the site of highly anticipated new home communities being built by renowned national homebuilder Lennar. Pre-sales are anticipated in mid-March. The state-of-the-art Recreation Center will offer extraordinary amenities and serve as an exciting hub for Griffin Ranch residents.

"Griffin Ranch is extremely desirable and is already home to several buyers," said

potential homebuyers that we have begun breaking ground on this highly anticipated Recreation Center and are excited to have wonderful choices in amenities—this is an incredible lifestyle opportunity!"

The Griffin Club will feature multiple tennis courts, a putting green, a swimming pool with extensive arbor shaded areas, a children's splash park, and a gym with several workout stations. Also offered at The Club will be a dog park, an on-site management office, and much more. Residents will enjoy a spacious clubhouse that is perfect for parties, meetings, special events, or just hanging out with friends and family.

Adding to the overall appeal and desert lifestyle of the popular community, the Club will also feature a multi-purpose event room with direct access to outdoor areas, creating a perfect venue for entertainment. Residents will have access to a catering kitchen for parties and neighborhood get-togethers.

The Griffin Ranch Recreation Center is located in La Quinta off Madison Avenue and Avenue 54.

HARC TO RELEASE RESULTS OF TRIENNIAL COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT FEBRUARY 13

Armed with the most recent, comprehensive data on the collective health of Coachella Valley, officials at the Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC) will unveil the 2013 Community Health Monitor Thursday, Feb. 13, beginning at 8 a.m. The triennial event, the third of its kind, will take place at the Indian Wells Theatre on the Palm Desert campus of California State University San Bernardino. There is no admission fee and the public is invited to attend.

HARC researchers interviewed more than 2,400 people in the exhaustive survey, which assessed both adults and children. Questions focused on issues such as access to healthcare, behavioral risk factors, current health challenges, gaps in services, as well as demographics. The fieldwork phase concluded last summer, followed by an extensive period of data tabulation, review and analysis.

The master of ceremonies at the event will be Dr. G. Richard Olds, Founding Dean of the University of California, Riverside, School of Medicine and HARC Board Member. Invited speakers include California State Assemblyman V. Manuel Pérez, Riverside County Supervisor John J. Benoit and David Maynard, Interim Dean of the California State University, Palm Desert Campus.

The event will feature a presentation of the highlights of this extensive study, accompanied by testimonials by local leaders detailing how several for-profit and nonprofit organizations leveraged the results of HARC's last study into funding for much-needed programs and services for the Coachella Valley community.

Attendees at the February event will each receive an Executive Summary of the voluminous 2013 study. This publication is full of useful data and statistics that will help local organizations to strengthen funding requests, prioritize community needs, design targeted programs and services, and more. Many will be interested to see how health indicators have changed over time in comparison to HARC's 2010 and 2007 surveys.

HARC Board President Glen Grayman, M.D., said the 2013 needs assessment provides community stakeholders an unprecedented opportunity to gauge shifts that may be taking place in the public health arena and determine how it relates to their individual program or service offerings.

In addition to its board of directors, HARC is led by a steering committee of more than 35 community partners and leaders, including hospitals, school districts, healthcare districts, county government, public safety and private sector interests. All contributed substantial financial and/or human resources necessary to launch the comprehensive needs assessment.