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Seven More Municipalities Commit to County's *Live Well Allegheny* Campaign

PITTSBURGH – The boroughs of Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Dormont, and Forest Hills, along with the Townships of Findlay, Kennedy and Scott, are the seven newest members of the county's *Live Well Allegheny* campaign. Their participation brings the number of *Live Well Allegheny* communities to 20 as they embrace the countywide effort to "live well."

"I'm very excited to see the number of *Live Well Allegheny* communities grow to twenty and welcome them, with open arms, to this effort," said Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Allegheny County Health Department. "Helping our residents become healthier is quite an undertaking, and not one that we can do on our own, which makes the role that our stakeholders, partners, schools and communities play in this effort absolutely essential. Working together, we can have a real impact on our county's health."

Live Well Allegheny was launched in January 2014 as a comprehensive, innovative strategy on wellness that embraces a broad concept of living well to include physical health, mental wellness, personal and community safety, prevention and preparedness, and much more. The effort is being led by the Board of Health and Health Department Director Dr. Karen Hacker.

"There is a real momentum with the *Live Well Allegheny* campaign, as evidenced by the addition of these seven communities," said County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. "Ultimately, our goal is to have every single one of our municipalities engaged in this effort to help the residents of our county become healthier. We can certainly offer resources, and urge our residents to take advantage of the resources available to them in our County parks, but the local community being part of this effort has a substantial impact."

In Council District 4, Scott Township and Kennedy Township are both promoting participation in voluntary wellness campaigns for their employees and residents, as well as further developing activities to encourage residents to become more active. They also will be utilizing their websites and social media to provide information on a variety of health and wellness-related initiatives.

"With this announcement, five of the communities participating in the *Live Well Allegheny* campaign are located in District 4. I'm proud to see the elected officials in these municipalities setting an example of what our communities can do to help their residents live healthier lives," said Council Member Mike Finnerty. "Not only are their officials and staff engaged, but they have all clearly expressed a commitment to ensuring that they are providing the services that their residents rely upon and need - including health, wellness and recreational opportunities."

Likewise, in Council District 8, Braddock Hills Borough and Chalfant Borough, recently passed resolutions joining the campaign. Both municipalities are pursuing a holistic approach to improving the quality of life for its residents, and will not only promote efforts around improved physical health, but also mental health, financial empowerment and food security. Both communities already have policies

for smoke-free buildings, perimeters and playgrounds, and share information on wellness activities through a variety of outlets.

“I’m very proud to see both of these communities participating in the *Live Well Allegheny* campaign,” said Council Member Dr. Charles Martoni. “By working with community partners, and other municipalities, we can create opportunities for everyone to eat healthy, be physically active, and live tobacco free. Ensuring that we are living well has even more benefits and can be seen in sustainability, public transportation, public infrastructure, environmental stewardship and in a health economy.”

Findlay Township joins three other communities in Council District 1 in embracing the effort. The township will be planning, promoting and implementing a *Live Well Allegheny* event to encourage active living, and will also be actively sharing information on events, opportunities and programming that residents and employees may take advantage of, as well as on general health concerns. Dormont Borough and Forest Hills Boroughs passed resolutions in July to join the effort. Both communities have committed to continuing to develop outdoor wellness trails, parks and green space, supporting a farmers’ market, and encouraging its residents to participate in wellness campaign events.

Participants in the *Live Well Allegheny* campaign are tied into the Health Department’s staff. While monetary resources are not part of the initiative, participating communities can receive materials, information and collateral items to promote the campaign and their individual efforts to “live well.” For more information on the *Live Well Allegheny* campaign, including how to become a *Live Well Allegheny* community, visit www.LiveWellAllegheny.com.

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