Councilman Cuts Curls for Cancer Patients

It took Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough three years to grow a ponytail 11.5 inches long.

It took only a matter of minutes for it all to come off.

Yarbrough's long locks came off April 26 during the annual Relay for Life marathon to raise funds for cancer research and treatment. Many cancer patients must undergo radiation or chemotherapy to fight the disease and lose their hair in the process. Wigs made from donated human hair can raise a patient's self-esteem while undergoing treatment.

Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough is all smiles as he gives the thumbs up while getting his pony tail removed at the April 26 Relay for Life.

"For such a great cause, it was a no-brainer," he said. "I hope it makes a difference. I am glad I was able to help out."

Bob McGinty, a three-time cancer survivor and one of the event chairs for the Relay for Life, said he had never before seen a man donate his hair to make wigs for patients.

"It was one of the most impressive things I ever saw," McGinty said. "It's really special to donate your hair so a cancer victim can have a sense of dignity. For him to do that was very touching. It was the highlight of the Relay for Life this year."

Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough holds up the hair he donated to make wigs for cancer patients.

Yarbrough called the decision to get a haircut a "spur of the moment thing." Although he did not intend to get shorn, the haircut provides a couple of benefits.

"It's easier to care for," he said. "And it's much cooler!"

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