



Perris Press Release

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Perris Senior/Teen Center Ready for Business

The big-screen televisions are mounted and ready to go at Perris' new Teen Center.

Computers are wired to the Internet. The foosball table gleams while waiting for the first crush of teams. And the new recording studio awaits its first jam session.

Final preparations are in place for the 10 a.m. Wednesday official opening of the teen center, which promises to be the new after-school hot spot for 13 to 17-year-olds.

The Teen Center will be located in the same building as Perris' senior center, and the City recently completed major upgrades to the facility at D Street and San Jacinto Avenue. Those include new exterior facades, landscaping, larger and ADA-approved restrooms, new flooring and lighting and new kitchen counters and appliances in the Senior Center portion of the building.

Total construction cost for both phases is \$777,000, funding which came from money designated for such projects.

The Senior Center, which provides a variety of arts and crafts classes, Zumba dance classes and a pool table area, will continue to operate daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

When the center closes, the walk-in program for Perris teens will take over, said Walter Carter, Perris Community Services Manager. That program will stay open until 8:30 p.m. three or four days a week, depending on staffing levels.

The Teen Center features computers, the latest electronic game stations, game tables, a lounge area, furniture, flat-screen televisions to operate a Nintendo Wii system and a small recording studio for performing artists. Students can finish their homework, read, visit their friends or spend time watching television and chatting. They can move to the beat of a virtual workout. They can work on computers but those will be monitored to keep students away from any inappropriate content.

Community Services Manager Walter Carter said people will like what they see at the center.

"It's a complete transformation," Carter said.

Perris City officials say the Senior/Teen Center marks another example of their commitment to improve infrastructure for the benefit of all residents.

"This is another great addition for the City of Perris," said Mayor Pro-Tem Al Landers. "The City has identified a need to upgrade our Senior Center and to bring quality programs and activities to our youth."

Perris City Councilwoman Joanne Evans said she is delighted with the new teen center.

"We care for our seniors, we care for the kids, we care for all the people in living in Perris—and it shows," Evans said. "We've got something for everybody."

Tom Ziska, who will work at the teen center, spent a recent afternoon watching an NBA game on the big-screen television.

"It's a place where you can come play the most up-to-date games and hang out with your friends," he said.

Shardae Jordan, 19, who volunteers for the City of Perris, said she likes to spend time playing the video game "Marvel vs Capcon." She said teen-agers will like the friendly staff who work there.

"You get to hang out with your friends and everyone is very friendly," she said.



Perris City Councilwoman Joanne Evans chats with Parks and Recreation employee Sarina Brannon during a visit at the new Perris Teen Center.



Natalie Lemus and Shardae Jordan play at the foosball table.