



Perris Press Release

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Perris Projects Dazzle at County Conference

Perris took center stage at this week's "State of Riverside County" conference as hundreds of people from throughout Southern California got an up-close look at the many projects the City is undertaking despite a rough economy.

Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley, a Perris resident, took visitors who gathered in the Riverside Convention Center on a video tour of his district and he spent a good deal of time talking up Perris. Ashley even conducted part of the video while sitting atop an elephant from the Perris pachyderm rescue organization "Have Trunk Will Travel."

"Perris is doing exceptionally well during turbulent times," Ashley said.

The City can boast several high-profile projects that are under construction right now, were recently completed or will soon break ground, Ashley said.

Those include the Big League Dreams sports complex, a \$25 million project set for dedication in January. The complex includes six baseball fields, stadium seating, a restaurant and pro-shop. The complex includes replicas of Yankee Stadium, Boston's Fenway Park, Dodger Stadium and Angels Stadium.

It is expected to attract tournaments from all over the western U.S.

The Perris Aquatics Center is slated for construction adjacent to the sports complex. The center will include an Olympic-size pool for elite athletes and other amenities.

Work also is progressing rapidly on the new freeway interchange at I-215 and Fourth Street. The \$29 million project will completely remake the entrance to Downtown Perris, replacing an out-of-date two-lane bridge with an eight-lane bridge while creating new off-ramps at Fourth Street and eliminating several stop signs. The work is scheduled for completion in 2012.

Other projects in the City include the recent ground-breaking of a \$3.5-million Downtown Fire Station and Emergency Operations Center at San Jacinto Avenue and F Street, which is expected to be completed in about a year.

Work also has begun on a \$13-million, three-year project to install new sewer lines in Enchanted Heights on the City's extreme west end. The sewer project will replace inadequate septic systems in the 446-Enchanted Heights residences.

Ashley concentrated on projects that Riverside County is constructing in conjunction with the City of Perris. Perris Mayor Daryl Busch, who headed the City's contingent at the economic summit, said the City also is working on plenty of projects on its own.

The City broke ground last year on a \$14-million, 60-unit family apartment complex and a \$3.5-million park on D and 8th streets and is developing a senior citizen apartment complex at D Street and San Jacinto Avenue. Ground-breaking on that project is expected in early 2012, Busch said.

Perris officials spent \$777,000 to upgrade the existing Senior Center and create a new Teen Center across the street from City Hall.

"If you look at all the projects we are working on, it doesn't seem like our City is in a depression," Busch said. "We are moving forward."

In addition to Mayor Busch, City Manager Richard Belmudez and Redevelopment and Economic Development Manager Michael McDermott also attended the State of Riverside County conference.