



Perris News

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Residential Beautification Program Helps Military Family

As Marine Cpl. Sergio Cisneros heads off to Afghanistan and a front-row view of the U.S. war on terror, one thing he won't have to worry about is the family home in Perris.

That's because the City of Perris helped turn what had been a worn-out house in need lots of tender loving care into a showcase he and wife are proud to call their own.

The City's Residential Beautification Program made available a \$7,500 grant that paid for a new front yard, repairs to the back porch, interior and exterior painting and repairing unsightly holes in the stucco. The house also got new landscaping and a new water-efficient irrigation system.

"It provides me with a huge sense of relief," said Cisneros, 23, who will soon deploy to Helmand Province as part of an artillery unit. "There's a great peace of mind knowing that my wife is home with our kids and feels comfortable in the house. I can't thank the City enough. They really gave us a new home."

Cisneros' wife, Jennifer, echoed those sentiments.

She said the "house was pretty beat up" when the couple purchased it last year.

"I didn't even want the house," she said.

The Cisneroses, who are both 23, said they learned about the Residential Beautification Program from their Realtor. The couple worked with the City and its vendor, CalMax Home Builders Inc. to develop a plan to rehab the May Ranch home.

Sergio Cisneros left for pre-deployment training late last year at Twentynine Palms. He returned home right before the holidays and was stunned at how good the house looked.

"It was jaw-dropping," he said. "I'm very satisfied."

City Combination Inspector Luis Natera said the beautification program is one of several innovative efforts to rehabilitate and occupy properties in Perris. Those programs, which include making funds available for income-qualified residents, first-time homebuyers and senior citizens, are credited with assisting more than 200 families in the last year.

"It's nice to be able to help deserving families like the Cisneroses," Natera said.

Marcos Orozco, who works for CalMax, dropped by recently to say hello to the family. He summed up the improvements succinctly.

"It worked out very well," he said.

Jennifer Cisneros will be staying at home with the couple's two children—Angie, 4, and Adrian, 1—while her husband spends eight months in Afghanistan. She and her husband both graduated from high school in 2004. Jennifer Cisneros grew up in Moreno Valley. Sergio Cisneros was born and raised in Perris.

"I am in love with my house," she said.

City Councilwoman Joanne Evans, a former Marine, said she is proud Perris takes care of its own residents through housing rehab programs like the one taken advantage of by the Cisneros family.

"Nothing is harder than when a husband leaves his family to defend our country," Evans said. "The family will never forget what the City of Perris has done for them. It's an honor to be part of a City that cares so much."

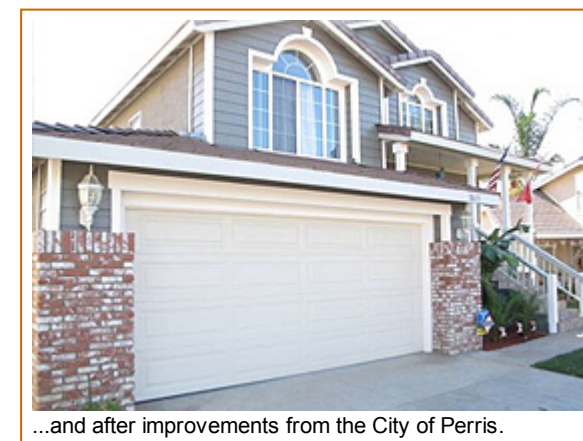
More information about the Residential Beautification Program is available [on this website](#), or by calling 951-943-5003.



Marine Cpl. Sergio Cisneros with his son, Adian, wife, Jennifer and daughter, Angie, in front of their home rehabbed through the City of Perris' Residential Beautification Program.



Views of the front of the home before...



...and after improvements from the City of Perris.



Combination Inspector Luis Natera presents the Cisneroses with a goody basket courtesy of the City.

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