



Perris News

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Arbor Day Trees Planted at 700 Palms Elementary

More than 700 Palms Elementary School students took a break from traditional classes Thursday to watch as Perris City officials planted elm and oak trees that will provide much-needed shade and cooling to their campus.

The tree-planting was part of the City's annual Arbor Day Celebration.

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch said Arbor Day festivities are part of the City's ongoing effort to "Go Green." Perris has already installed solar panels and a state-of-the-art irrigation system at its City Hall Campus and this week dedicated the world's largest green building, the 1.3 million-square-foot Hanesbrands distribution center.

"This is just another step in our ongoing efforts," Busch said. "We are committed to going green."

Busch led a contingent of City officials for the Arbor Day event at Palms Elementary. City Clerk Judy Haughney also took part as did representatives of the City administration, Development Services and Public Works departments.

Associate Planner Diane Sbardellati, who coordinated the City's efforts to plant trees, told the assembled children that Arbor Day began in Nebraska in 1872. Nebraska residents planted more than one million trees that first year and tens of millions more have been planted in the succeeding years. Sbardellati said trees cool the earth, provide shade and shelter all kinds of birds and insects.

"Today is the day we set aside what trees do for our community," Sbardellati said. "They are part of the ecosystem that we all share. They have to be cared for like every living thing. They will be cared for by you and grow big and strong."

Four Chinese elm trees and two Holly oaks were planted. About 600 small fern pine trees were left with school officials to distribute to children who wanted to plant them at home.

Palms Elementary School Principal Juan Hernandez also recognized the winners of a poster contest depicting the importance of Arbor Day. All the winners had their picture taken with Mayor Busch, City Clerk Haughney and Assistant City Manager Ron Carr.

Jose "Pepe" Garcia, a member of the Perris Elementary School Board, praised the City for taking the lead in helping bring much-needed shade to the playground at Palms Elementary.

"The City is teaching children about the importance of the environment," he said. "I am pleased the City took part in this important event."



Palms Elementary School principal Juan Hernandez, Perris Elementary School District Trustee Jose Garcia, City Clerk Judy Haughney, Perris Mayor Daryl Busch and Assistant City Manager Ron Carr plant a tree as part of the City's Arbor Day commemoration



More than 700 first through sixth graders watched the tree-planting ceremony.



City Clerk Judy Haughney and Associate Planner Diane Sbardellati chat with Mayor Daryl Busch at Palms Elementary School