



Perris News

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Springfest 2010 a Wonderful Success!

Perris City officials hailed the first ever "SpringFest" as unqualified success that attracted thousands of people Downtown to tour restored century-old buildings, dance, sample a variety of tasty foods and see the transformation taking place along Perris' historical D Street.

"This is a wonderful event for the City of Perris," said City Councilwoman Rita Rogers. "For a long time the City Council has been seeking ways to attract people Downtown. This effort will help revitalize our Downtown. I am pleased to be part of this effort. We have a great day. Everybody needs to come Downtown!"

D Street between San Jacinto Avenue and Fourth Street was blocked off for the two-day event.

Visitors strolled the length of the area taking in the scene.

There was a Ferris Wheel to ride. Live music pulsed from the City stage. Some kids took advantage of the face painting to give themselves a new look. Others put on colorful wrestling masks purchased from well-stocked vendors. Tours were available for the history buffs wanting to check out the refurbished Bank Building, Depot Building and Southern Hotel.

The freshly painted Perris Theatre, now sporting a yellow-and-green color pattern, also drew the attention of the crowd.

Perris resident Gale Reid noticed the theatre building and said she would like to see the restored site turned into a venue for a comedy club or a place to watch classic films. She said she also was pleased to see the City's transit center nearby and welcomes the arrival of Metrolink trains to Perris, which is expected next year.

"It's nice to see the City moving forward," she said.

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch, City Council members Al Landers and Joanne Evans, City Manager Richard Belmudez and City Clerk Judy Haughney were among the dignitaries who cut the ribbon signifying the grand reopening of Todec, the immigrant support group that helps make the American dream possible for many immigrants from Central America. Later the City contingent viewed a collection of prints and portraits from Latino artists.

Dancers in garb worn in Perris' sister city in Michoacan Mexico performed at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Luz Marie Ayala, who started Todec decades ago, praised the City for restoring Perris' history.

"The City of Perris is working very well," Ayala said. "It's very important to remember the history and the pioneers who helped make the City what it is today. They are treasures. The City is recovering treasures from the past. If you do not know history, you cannot talk about the future."

Landers called SpringFest 2010 "a wonderful event" that he predicted would grow in the future. He said he was particularly impressed with how the construction along D Street—which includes new sidewalks, blacktop, pavers, benches, trees and landscaping—has transformed Downtown Perris.

"To see what the City has done to revitalize our Downtown is nothing short of remarkable," he said. "This event is just awesome. You would never believe it was our first attempt."

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch dropped by both days and said he saw good crowds.

"It was a good building block for what we intend to do in the future," he said. "It is our intention to make it better the next time we hold a similar event."

City Councilwoman Evans said it was great to see so many people enjoying themselves in Downtown Perris. "I am really glad to see the turnout," she said. "It is really nice to see all the work that has been done Downtown."

Event Video

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Traditional Michoacan dancers proved a highlight for SpringFest 2010



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch cuts the ribbon signifying the official re-opening of the Todec Center. The business was among those that received facelifts as part of the City's Commercial Façade Improvement Program.



Perris City Clerk (left) and City Councilman Al Landers flank Todec founder Luz Marie Ayala.



City Manager Richard Belmudez views artwork on display.