



## Perris News

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### Joint-use Partnerships Benefit Kids and the Community

Perris City officials continue developing partnerships that will benefit the community, most recently teaming with representatives of the Perris Union High School District to break ground on a new education and recreation complex.

City and school district representatives gathered this month at Pinacate Middle School to begin work on a three-phase construction project that will remake the campus and is expected to greatly enhance the City of Perris' recreational facilities.

Phase 1 includes relocating 25 portable classrooms to provide space for a new library, administration center and a 25,000-square-foot gymnasium at Pinacate with classrooms that both the City and the School District hope to utilize as a joint use facility.

Perris officials would like to use the new classrooms for after-school programs, craft classes, performance arts, or instructional programs such as drivers training or CPR education. The gym would be a great alternative for basketball and volleyball programs.

Phases two and three of the expansion project will include five new classrooms, new kitchen facilities, and other upgrades to the campus.

Officials say Pinacate badly needs the renovations.

The campus opened in 1987 and was designed to hold 700 students. However, the middle school now is home to 1,300 students.

Work on the first phase of the project, the removal of portable classrooms, was timed to coincide with summer vacation.

Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough and City Manager Richard Belmudez joined Perris Union High School District Superintendent Jonathan Greenberg and trustees William Hulstrom and Carolyn Twyman in the June 10 ground-breaking.

"Our City is committed to developing relationships that benefit Perris residents," Yarbrough said. "Our strength as a City has been to work with other agencies to enhance and improve the quality of life for Perris residents, visitors and businesses."

Yarbrough said the City and school district have worked together for nearly 30 years to upgrade and expand education and recreational options for Perris residents. In 1982 the City and the Perris Union High School District worked cooperatively to build a community pool on the campus of Perris High School.

In 2000, the City and the district entered into a joint-use agreement for certain municipal facilities. That enabled the two entities develop Rotary Park and financially participate in the development of Panther Park. It also paved the way for similar agreements between the City and other school districts.

By 2005, thanks to those partnerships, the City had expanded its total park acreage by 27 percent, to 75 acres. In just the last five years, the total has nearly doubled to 145 acres encompassing 14 parks.

"We value the role the Perris Union High School District has had in helping us to meet the challenge to provide parks and facilities for our growing community," Yarbrough said. "Through our partnership, not only have we been able to create new parks, but we have also benefitted from the use of facilities for our basketball leagues and our summer aquatics program," Yarbrough said. "On behalf of the City of Perris, we congratulate the Board of the Perris Union High School District on the occasion of the groundbreaking for the expansion of the Pinacate Middle School and we look forward to continuing our partnership to make Perris a great place to live, learn, and play."



Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough looks over construction at Pinacate Middle School. The City and Perris Union High School District are working on a joint-use project at the site, which will include a gymnasium and classroom space.



A crane lowers part of the foundation for a new gym into place.



Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough: "Our City is committed to developing relationships that benefit Perris residents."